Class E 340

Book .G48C5

To The Editor of
The Evening Journal
with the compliments
of Mrs. Gl. D. Gilfpin

Dec. 22nd 1860

Phila

Henry D. Gilpin

Henry D. Gilpin.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

# MEMORIAL

OF

PHILADELPHIA.
1860.

# INTRODUCTION.

The following pages contain the testimonials of respect and affection, which were bestowed upon the memory of my beloved husband at the time of his decease, by friends who were so dear to him, and by the important institutions with which he was connected. In collecting them, I obey the dictates of a grateful heart, desirous to preserve in a more permanent form these expressions of the sentiments of the community in which he lived, affording as they do the highest proofs of his own excellence, and of the appreciation of it, by those who knew him best. They give evidence that in all the positions in which he was placed, both in public and private life, he conscientiously performed every duty; while

those, who were still more closely united to him, can bear witness to his devotion, considerateness, fidelity, and tenderness as a son, a brother, a friend, and a husband.

I anxiously hope that, at some future time, the varied productions of his own mind may be collected for preservation, for it may be justly said of my husband, that his own character is reflected in his writings—elevated as they are in thought, rich in information, in language and style chaste and simple, with a purity of sentiment and delicacy of expression peculiarly his own. Those qualities and accomplishments, which constituted the charm of his conversation and personal intercourse, gave force and beauty to all that flowed from his ready pen. I cannot be mistaken in thinking, that a collection of his historical compositions, his occasional discourses, his memoirs of some of the most eminent of his contemporaries, and his miscellaneous writings, would form a

highly valuable contribution to the literature of the country.

The book-plate on the title-page of this volume was used by Mr. Gilpin in his extensive library, and it shall be affixed to every volume which may be added to it while in my possession; and I desire it may be used when his Library shall have been permanently placed under the care of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, in conformity with his will.

To his friends, among whom are names the most respected and best known at home and abroad, who have given expression to their feelings in letters of sympathy, and furnished the contents of these pages, I now beg leave to return my grateful thanks for the tributes so feelingly paid to his honored and cherished memory.

ELIZA GILPIN.

# CONTENTS.

TRIBUTES OF THE PRESS . . . . . 1

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF THE FINE ARTS . . . . . 21

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURTS AND BAR OF PHILADELPHIA . . . . . 29

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA . . . . . 53

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AND ADDRESS OF MR. EDWARD EVERETT . . 129

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AND ADDRESS OF MR. WILLIAM B. OGDEN . . . . 113

ADDRESS OF MR. JOSEPH R. INGERSOLL BEFORE THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY . . . . 159

LETTERS FROM MR. GEORGE GROTE AND MR. RICHARD COBDEN . . . . . 205

# TRIBUTES OF THE PRESS.

# A MEMORIAL

OF

# HENRY D. GILPIN.

## TRIBUTES OF THE PRESS.

On the 30th of January, 1860, the morning papers announced in the following articles the close of the useful career of the distinguished subject of the following memorial:—

[Philadelphia Inquirer.]

Henry D. Gilpin.—The death of this excellent gentleman, which has just taken place, is a private and a public calamity. The loss, it may safely be said, cannot be supplied. In all the relations of

life his deportment was amiable, and his conduct, as his friends who knew him best firmly believed, was free from all reproach. His departure from a sphere of duty and intercourse which he filled so long and so well, will be felt by a most extensive circle, where his merits were especially appreciated; and by the country at large, which had known and valued his various attainments. Educated in early boyhood in England, he came with his father's family to the United States, where, in different positions, he has passed an active and industrious life. After some years of practice at the Philadelphia Bar, he received the appointment of United States Attorney for the District of Pennsylvania. He was thence invited to Washington as Solicitor of the Treasury, and not a great while afterwards became the Attorney-General of the United States. In all these places a high order of abilities was displayed by him, and his industry was indefatigable. He returned to Philadelphia

with a competency fully earned and richly merited; and he has continued, with the exception of a visit to Europe, to pass his time among the friends and companions of his youth, and in the midst of a most amiable family.

Habits of industry were not abandoned by him with public life. His mornings were for the most part passed in the midst of a large and valuable collection of books which formed his extensive library, selected almost entirely by himself. Portions of his day were given to social intercourse and to the practice of a generous hospitality.

A frame, naturally not robust, did not receive the relaxation and exercise which it needed. Although many years from the approach of advanced age, he was not inaccessible to infirmity of body, while his mind was always clear and vigorous. With everything about him to render life happy to himself, to his family, and his many friends, he gradually yielded to the influences of insidious,

and, at length, complicated disease, the effects purely of want of constitutional strength, and of watchful exercise. With little in the progress of his maladies to afford hope to his anxious friends, he sunk gradually from feeble health to positive debility, and at length yielded up his spirit this morning at rather an early hour, breathing only kindness and good-will, and having little to regret and everything to hope for, as the reward of a life filled with nothing but peace and good-will.

In his manners, Mr. Gilpin was amiable and accomplished. In his knowledge, he was well read and diversified. In his feelings, as kind as ever human heart was formed for friendship and affection. A fine writer and an eloquent speaker, courteous in all the relations of life, firm and gentle, just and honorable in his dealings, always ready to do a kindness, and never disposed to wrong or injure, a ripe scholar, and an accomplished gentleman, he was respected and esteemed

with a devotion and sincerity which will only be equalled by the sorrow with which he will long and deeply be lamented.

[North American and United States Gazette.]

Death of Henry D. Gilpin.—We are greatly pained, as will be this whole community, to learn that this worthy gentleman and accomplished scholar died yesterday morning. He had been for some time in declining health, but was not thought to be in immediate danger. The proximate cause of his demise was an affection of the throat.

Mr. Gilpin was born in 1801, and took his degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1819. In 1832 he was appointed Attorney of the United States for Pennsylvania; in 1837, Solicitor of the Treasury of the United States; and in 1840, Attorney-General for the same great confederacy. For some time, and most deservedly and well, he

filled two honorable and responsible positions—the Presidency of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and the Vice-Presidency of the Historical Society. In each of these Institutions the loss of his knowledge, liberal spirit, and cultivated taste, will leave a great and lamented vacuum. But not only have learning, literature, and taste at large lost one of their most distinguished ornaments and supports, but his brethren of the legal profession are deprived of one who has contributed largely to their treasures. In 1837 he published Reports of the cases tried in the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The able decisions of Judge Hopkinson filled the larger portion of this volume, and it is justly said that Mr. Gilpin gave admirable summaries of the facts in each case, and produced a work of high character. In 1841 he issued, in two volumes, octavo, the Opinions of the Attorneys-General of the United States, from

the origin of the government to the year of the publication. This work, also, was declared by high authorities to be of exceeding interest, and in every way a fitting monument to the reputation of the distinguished men who have successively filled that office. Our civilians, or we may better say, all who take an interest in the origin, theory, and operations of this great government, are indebted to him for his supervision, under the authority of Congress, of the publication of a large portion of the invaluable treasures left us in the papers of James Madison.

Mr. Gilpin was also a prominent and skilful reaper in the fields of general literature. From 1826 to 1832 he edited or wrote much both in prose and verse, for the Atlantic Souvenir, the first literary annual published in America, and which, being good in itself, was the cause of a flood of annuals, which finally all died from their own excessive numbers. He wrote many articles

on politics and general literature for the *American Quarterly*, the *Democratic*, and the *North American Reviews*. He wrote very many of the Biographies of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and the second edition of those biographies was revised, enriched, and edited by him alone. Biographical notices of Livingston, Wright, Forsyth, Poinsett, and other statesmen with whom he was associated and familiar were prepared by him. He was often called on to deliver addresses before various scientific, literary, and æsthetical societies; and those addresses being distinguished for that elegant and liberal knowledge which caused the selection of their speaker, were widely diffused and as widely appreciated.

The above are all the material facts we have to notice in the life of this finished gentleman and scholar. The career of one who makes himself a thorough master of the old languages and works that remain embalmed and immortalized in their

own perfection, and who devotes the rest of his life to the study, elucidation, and diffusion of the great principles of law and government, with the exception of some stolen hours assigned to the culture of all that is choicé in literature or elegant in art, must necessarily be devoid of stirring incident. But Philadelphians will long regret the loss of one who had the faculty and the will to disseminate the results of his own fine acquirements, and whose ample means were liberally employed not only in developing literature and the arts among us, but in extending to visitors a generous and elegant hospitality. Mr. Gilpin collected and has left a library which any scholar would be glad to inspect, and overjoyed to possess.

[Pennsylvanian.]

Death of Henry D. Gilpin.—We are pained to announce the death of another prominent and distinguished citizen. Henry D. Gilpin died yesterday, in the fifty-ninth year of his age. The sad announcement will cause a feeling of wide and deep regret, for few men have been more widely known or universally esteemed for the possession in their fulness of all those qualities which distinguish the man of quiet labor and constant but unostentatious usefulness. Mr. Gilpin was a man of the strictest probity and of marked unselfishness. Bred to the bar, and of a quick perceptiveness, he early acquired a high reputation for legal learning, and discharged the duties of several highly responsible positions with masterly ability. With talents of a high order that justly gave him pre-eminence in his profession, he had little taste for worldly applause; but

in every benevolent or public enterprise where labor was to be performed or sacrifices imposed, he was among the first and freest; and not a few of our public institutions owe a large share of their success to his almost lavish contributions, his clear knowledge, his finished scholarship, and his constant, persevering efforts. Art and learning had no more devoted or willing friend among us. He was a man of ardent friendships, and of large and genuine benevolence of heart; and enjoyed in a rare degree the confidence and warm regard of an extended acquaintance both in public and private life.

[The Press.]

Henry D. Gilpin.—This distinguished gentleman, whose death we briefly announced on Monday morning, occupied a very high social position in our city, and was at one period prominently identified with political events of the most important character. Mr. Gilpin was a native of Philadelphia, born in the year 1801. His ancestors removed to Pennsylvania at about the time of the establishment of the colony of William Penn, settling first on the banks of the Brandywine, near the boundary of Pennsylvania and Delaware. His grandfather removed to Philadelphia in the year 1740, and was an intimate friend of Dr. Franklin. His father, Mr. Joshua Gilpin, was for a considerable period an eminent merchant of this city; but some time before the close of his life, removed to the State of Delaware. Henry D. Gilpin received the rudiments of his education at a Phila-

delphia grammar school, and at the age of fifteen entered the University of Pennsylvania, at which institution he graduated with the highest collegiate honors in 1819. He then commenced the study of the law in the office of Mr. Joseph R. Ingersoll, and was admitted to the Philadelphia bar in 1822. By his diligence as a student, and talents as a lawyer, he gradually increased his standing at the bar until the year 1830, when his successful management of a case arising out of a difficulty between two Portuguese ministers, accredited by two different claimants to sovereign power—which involved many important international questions, and which, after being tried in the Circuit Court of Philadelphia, was carried up to the Supreme Court of the United States—established his legal reputation upon a firm basis, and secured for him the warm friendship and high regard of the President of the United States at that time, General Jackson. In the following year, 1831,

Mr. Dallas, who then held the office of District Attorney of the United States at Philadelphia, was chosen United States Senator, and Mr. Gilpin was immediately appointed to succeed him as District Attorney. This office he held for more than five years, discharging its duties with great ability. During this period he also acted in another important capacity, as he was appointed by General Jackson in 1833 one of the Government directors of the Bank of the United States. This position was a particularly trying and onerous one. The current of public sentiment in Philadelphia at that period was strongly in favor of the bank, and in opposition to the policy General Jackson had adopted. Yet Mr. Gilpin, acting under a high sense of duty, and prompted by a warm attachment to the brave old hero of the Hermitage, and to the policy of the Democratic party of that era, continued, with untiring vigilance and unbending perseverance, to antagonize the controlling spirits

of the bank, and to assist General Jackson in his efforts to suppress it.

During the whole of General Jackson's administration, Mr. Gilpin was one of its most uncompromising supporters in this locality, and by his frequent contributions to the Democratic press of that day, and by the aid of his vigorous pen in the preparation of numerous addresses to the Democracy of the State, he did much to create the strong current of popular feeling which sustained General Jackson in his trying contests. On the expiration of the first term for which Mr. Gilpin had acted as a Government director of the Bank of the United States in 1834, General Jackson nominated him for a second term, but this nomination was rejected in the Senate by a majority of four votes. Jackson sent to the Senate a renomination, which was also, of course, rejected.

In the autumn of the same year, as an additional mark of his regard, General Jackson ap-

pointed Mr. Gilpin Governor of the Territory of Michigan, a post which had become vacant by the death of General George B. Porter, and this nomination was also rejected by the Senate, simply on account of the strong partisan feelings engendered by Mr. Gilpin's rigid course on the bank question, and without any pretence of unfitness, or of personal objections of any kind whatever, by a majority of one vote. The injustice of this rejection, and the vindictive spirit of persecution it evinced, were bitterly denounced by the Democratic press of Pennsylvania at the time, and at the following session of the same Senate, that body, acting under a higher sense of duty, made the *amende honorable* by a unanimous confirmation of the reappointment of Mr. Gilpin to the District Attorneyship of Pennsylvania.

In the month of May, of 1837, shortly after the elevation of Mr. Van Buren to the Presidential chair, he tendered to Mr. Gilpin the office of So-

licitor of the Treasury, which that gentleman accepted, and at once removed to Washington. Several important questions arose during his continuance in this office, which he discussed with masterly ability, and which were finally settled in accordance with his suggestions.

In 1840 a vacancy was created in the office of Attorney-General of the United States by the resignation of Felix Grundy, of Tennessee, who had been elected a United States Senator from that State, and Mr. Gilpin was appointed to this position by President Van Buren. He thus attained, when less than forty years of age, one of the most honorable and important offices in the government. During his term of Attorney-General, a large number of important cases demanded his attention, but he was equal to every emergency, and greatly increased his professional reputation by the ability thus displayed. Mr. Gilpin was a devoted friend of Mr. Van Buren, and since the culmina-

tion of the political fortunes of that statesman, which occurred after his defeat, in 1840, never occupied a very prominent political position, but he assiduously devoted himself to literature, and to the diffusion of an elegant hospitality. When quite a young man he completed the biography of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was also a prominent contributor to the *American Quarterly Review*, the publication of which was commenced in Philadelphia in 1829; and to the *Democratic Review*, and was the author of many public addresses and miscellaneous literary productions. He also prepared the "Madison Papers," which were published under the auspices of Congress, and performed this duty with such fidelity that Mr. Bancroft warmly applauded his labors.

Mr. Gilpin also acted, during his useful life, as President of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, as Vice-President of the Historical Society, and as Director of Girard College. He was one

of the most polished gentlemen we have ever known, and to an intellect of a very high order united a kind heart and an amiable disposition, which endeared him to all who had the good fortune to be ranked among his friends. By his death Philadelphia has lost one of her most estimable and talented citizens.

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF THE FINE ARTS.

# PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF THE FINE ARTS.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 4, 1860.

MRS. HENRY D. GILPIN.

MY DEAR MADAM: I have a melancholy duty to perform, in presenting you with the accompanying proceedings of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

Although Mr. Gilpin was no longer officially connected with our institution, at the time of his death, yet he was held in too high estimation by his late Associates, not to render it incumbent upon them to record, upon its earliest announcement, the expression of their unfeigned regard for his memory, and their fervent regret at that dispensation of Providence, which had, in the midst of his usefulness, deprived us of a beloved

friend, the community of a most estimable citizen, and his family of a devoted member.

Mr. Gilpin, after an interregnum of some years, occasioned by his temporary removal from the city, rejoined the Board of Directors on the same day with myself, both being elected to fill vacancies which had previously occurred therein. This was in the year 1841. Since that period, with a slight exception, we sat side by side, in mutual efforts (whilst co-operating with our colleagues) to promote the success of our institution. As I was seldom absent from the meetings of the Board, my opportunities were favorable for witnessing the character and extent of the services which Mr. Gilpin rendered. These were many, and of signal advantage to it. There was no occasion, during this long period, on which he was not ready to labor for the welfare of the Academy; and the prompt and graceful manner in which every duty was performed by him, augmented its

value, whilst the personal regard of his associates was, chiefly through this instrumentality, ripened into warm and enduring attachments.

You are aware how reluctantly the Board parted with their late President, and how much their sensibilities were awakened when he announced that his retirement was on account of declining health. You are also aware how earnestly we besought him to relinquish his intention, as well for his own sake as ours, and what personal appeals were made to him to consider whether in the step he was taking he was not rather likely to do himself more bodily injury than benefit.

Mr. Gilpin's pure and blameless life has been suddenly arrested, but he has left us many pleasant memories to dwell on, and a bright example to imitate, in all those virtues which render men worthy of the public esteem during this existence, and in fitting them for another and a happier home when their earthly career shall have termi-

nated. I need not assure you, my dear madam, of the profound sympathy felt for you by the Board of Directors in the irreparable loss that you have experienced. They all feel most keenly your affliction, whilst it is their united prayer that through those consolations which are ever mingled in the cup of bitterness, and which a Christian heart like your own can appreciate, you may be sustained, so that your remaining years shall, notwithstanding your present calamity, prove an unalloyed blessing to you.

I am, with the sincerest respect and esteem, Yours truly,

C. COPE,
Pres't Penn'a Academy of the Fine Arts.

At a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, held on the 31st January, 1860, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

*Resolved*, That this Board have heard with the deepest sorrow, the announcement of the death of Henry D. Gilpin, long connected with this institution, and for many years its presiding officer.

*Resolved*, That the members of this Board cherish a very lively and grateful remembrance of the services rendered to this institution by the deceased, of his amiable deportment and gentle manners, of his uniform suavity and kind bearing, and of his unwearied and efficient efforts in the cause of human improvement, whether illustrated in his labors whilst officially connected with the Academy and in its behalf, or by his eminent services in other and not less distinguished spheres of duty.

*Resolved*, That this Board feel that a serious void has been created in the business and social circles to which the departed belonged, and which he adorned by his shining talents, pure and elevated character, refined tastes, genial disposition, and liberal hospitality.

*Resolved*, That this Board, as a further mark of respect and esteem for the memory of their late lamented friend and associate, will attend his funeral in a body.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions, attested by the President and Secretary, be transmitted to the bereaved wife of the deceased, accompanied by the tender of the sincerest condolence of the Board in her severe affliction.

C. COPE, President.

Attest: JOHN T. LEWIS, Secretary.

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# COURTS AND BAR OF PHILADELPHIA.

## THE PHILADELPHIA BAR.

Mrs. Henry D. Gilpin.

Madam: The undersigned, a Committee appointed for the purpose at a meeting of the Bar of Philadelphia, have the honor, after a brief delay, which was thought due to your feelings, to inclose herewith the resolutions, unanimously adopted by his late associates, on the occasion of the lamented death of Mr. Gilpin.

They ask most respectfully and with the profoundest sympathy, Madam, in your grief, permission to lay them before you, and they have the honor to assure you of their high consideration in subscribing themselves, Madam,

Your very obedient and humble servants,

| | |
|---|---|
| W. M. MEREDITH. | P. M'CALL. |
| JAMES PAGE. | G. M. WHARTON. |
| J. RANDALL. | BENJAMIN RUSH. |
| C. INGERSOLL. | ST. GEO. T. CAMPBELL. |
| IS. HAZLEHURST. | B. GERHARD. |
| | CHARLES J. BIDDLE. |

Phila., March 2, 1860.

At a meeting of the members of the Philadelphia Bar, held in the Circuit Court Room of the United States on the thirty-first day of January, A. D. 1860, Mr. William M. Meredith presided and Mr. James Page acted as Secretary.

The following resolutions, offered by Mr. Josiah Randall, were unanimously adopted after addresses by that gentleman, Messrs. Benjamin Rush, and Charles Ingersoll.

*Resolved*, That the members of the Bar of Philadelphia assemble this morning, with feelings of unfeigned sorrow, to manifest their respect and esteem for the memory of their departed brother, Henry D. Gilpin. A life of purity has been terminated without having reached the limits of old age, and the friends of the deceased, in common with the whole country, are called upon to mourn the departure of an associate and a distinguished fellow-citizen at a period when, if life and health had been prolonged, he might for years have been

cherished by both as an ornament to society and a treasure to the nation.

That he discharged arduous and responsible duties under the government of the United States, ending with the high office of its Attorney-General, with eminent fidelity and ability. As a private gentleman and a professional man, he was always courteous, correct, and amiable; and in all the relations of life he was consistent in good conduct, and exemplary in social, professional, and political intercourse.

That his attainments as a scholar were rare; his devotion to duty of every kind was never failing, ardent, and indefatigable; while gentleness of manner, the mirror of a benevolent disposition, attracted corresponding good-will from all, and a bearing always kind, was welcomed and reciprocated by universal kindness in return.

That the career of Mr. Gilpin has been such as to invite the imitation of the young and respect

from the mature in life. His part was well performed, with rectitude and honor; and the name which he has bequeathed without a stain, will be held in recollection of esteem and gratitude.

That sympathy for his loss suggests the propriety of communicating these resolutions to his afflicted family. It is therefore,

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to carry that melancholy duty into effect, and to make public these proceedings as an earnest testimonial of the sentiments of the meeting.

The Chairman appointed on the above Committee Messrs. Josiah Randall, Charles Ingersoll, Isaac Hazlehurst, Peter M'Call, George M. Wharton, Benjamin Rush, St. Geo. T. Campbell, Benjamin Gerhard, and Charles J. Biddle.

On motion, the Chairman and Secretary were added to the Committee.

WM. M. MEREDITH, Pres't.

JAMES PAGE, Sec'ry.

## ADDRESSES AT THE MEETING OF THE BAR.

### REMARKS OF MR. JOSIAH RANDALL.

In compliance with the request of those gentlemen who have made the preliminary arrangements for the present meeting, I offer for adoption the resolutions, which have been prepared for your consideration. But before doing so, I will submit a few remarks:—

Mr. Gilpin was no ordinary man. In the year 1820 he entered upon the profession of the law, and shortly after took an active part in the public concerns of the country. He rose gradually, step by step, until under Mr. Van Buren's administration, he arrived at the highest professional post in this country—the Attorney-General of the United States. During his official career in this station, he competed with the most able advocates of the

nation, such as Webster, Choate, Clay, Johnson, Nelson, and others; and in this conflict of mind he gave fresh pledges of his superior intellect and general research. He was probably, with one exception (Mr. Everett), in diplomacy the best educated statesman in our country, and his large mass of learning was always at the service of his friends. He was mild and amiable, but in the performance of his public duties he was inflexibly honest and upright. During the last term of General Jackson's administration it is well known that it fell to his lot to perform a most arduous and perilous public duty. In doing so, he encountered local pride and public prejudice to an almost unlimited extent. Brave when his rights were encroached upon, fearless in sustaining what he believed to be the truth, and unawed by any power but the will of Omniscience, he steadily performed his duty, and never faltered nor looked behind him. Among others, I differed from him on that occa-

sion, but sober reflection and the result have proved that he was right and we were wrong.

One of the most useful lessons taught by the death of a good man is to impress upon us moral reflections which may be beneficial to those who survive. I do not hold the sentiment that the virtues of a good man and the vices of a bad man, after death, should be confounded, and that the epitaphs on the tombstones of both should be the same. I know of no incentive more powerful to promote good acts than the value of a posthumous name, and none of us can leave to our family and our friends a richer legacy than the character of a faithful public servant and an upright honest man in private life. There is a sickly philosophy too prevalent, that every statesman or public man is liable to the imputation of being sordidly selfish or corrupt, or to use the popular sarcasm in more homely language, that he is a man of principle in proportion to his interest. The life and character

of Mr. Gilpin exhibit most powerfully the injustice of this sentiment. His public and private career has been without blot or blemish, and beyond rebuke or reproach.

Having obtained the highest eminence in his profession and great affluence in his fortune, acquired by his industry, without oppression, he retired, a few years since, from the active labors incident to practice at the bar, and devoted himself to the domestic enjoyments of his family and friends. This was the arena in which his virtues shone so brilliantly, and it was here as a husband, a son, a brother, and a friend, that his merits were known and cherished. A few months since it became apparent to himself and others, that his days were numbered. He received the sad admonition with composure and resignation. Day after day passed by, and the time arrived when he realized that a change was about to take place. Surrounded by a weeping circle, consisting of his

partner in life, his mother, his other relations, and his domestics, he took affectionate leave of them all, gave them his blessing, and in a mild and firm manner told them, "*I die at peace with God and man.*"

Such has been the fate of our friend, whose memory we are called here to respect, and before I conclude I cannot refrain from making an earnest appeal to each one of the young members of our profession, who constitute so large a portion of this assemblage, and from saying to him, "Go thou and do likewise."

REMARKS OF MR. BENJAMIN RUSH.

Mr. Rush said, that though he could add nothing to the very appropriate observations of his estimable friend who had just taken his seat, he would, nevertheless, ask leave to say a word or two, for he felt that if he were to remain wholly silent on such an occasion as this, he would be untrue to the promptings of his heart. It had been well said by Mr. Randall, that Mr. Gilpin was no ordinary man; nor was his death an ordinary event, in the ranks of this Bar, or this city, or, he would add, the gifted men of this country. Well and truly had it also been said of him, that in all the relations of public and private life, he was a model; that as a husband, a son, a citizen, a gentleman, he had no superior. Sir, said Mr. Rush, this large meeting of the profession, graced by the presence of learned Judges, who have sus-

pended the proceedings of their Courts to enable them to be here, has ratified these sentiments; this whole community, in which he was a universal favorite, will ratify them; the public will endorse them. To say that his heart was as warm as his intellect was disciplined and polished; that his generous impulses, his ready kindness, his habitual suavity, his unwillingness to offend, or give pain to others, were attractively illustrated in his bland and agreeable and genial intercourse; or to speak of the charms of his accomplished mind, as seen and felt in his easy, and sprightly, and flowing conversation, to which so many of us have listened, at his hospitable table and elsewhere, as it sparkled with quick intelligence, and shone with cultivation and the lights of knowledge—what is this, what would this be, but feebly to portray a little of all that we already know and feel? For, sir, to one who knew him, as *you* did, and as some of the rest of us knew him more re-

cently, who does not recall with mingled pleasure and sadness—elevated pleasure and corresponding sadness—the hours that were gladdened by his presence; to whom, of all such, does not his beaming smile, his courteous and cordial salutation, vividly return with memories now made painful, when we come to realize that we shall see his face no more.

Mr. Gilpin, continued Mr. Rush, was all, and more than all, that he had thus imperfectly described, in all the numerous relations of personal and social intercourse. To these he chiefly devoted the latter years of his agreeable leisure; these were the spheres he filled with eminent attractiveness and grace; surrounded by the embellishments of taste, and the treasures of varied knowledge, of which his ample and beautiful library gave him the command, and which he well knew how to appreciate and enjoy; heightened as was such enjoyment, greatly heightened, by the companionship of choice and cherished friends.

among them, some of the very first in this land by past public station, and the highest order of social and intellectual accomplishment. Nor let it be forgotten, that with all these agreeable pursuits, he ever united a ready, an efficient, an unobtrusive sympathy with those less fortunate among his fellows, and was ever ready to co-operate, actively and judiciously, in every laudable object of public enterprise.

But, Mr. Chairman, said Mr. Rush, there *was* a time when, as you well know, and as many of the rest of us know, Mr. Gilpin had few superiors at this Bar; when he brought to the profession the strength of his intellect, and moved in its busiest walks; grappling with it as only those can and do, who act up to the full meaning of that maxim, in all its exacting rigor, "*Legi te totum dedica;*" might it not be added, by a slight paraphrase of the remainder of the line—"*nam dignus erat illâ et illa eo digna?*" For if fine talents

inherited from nature, and cultivated by early and long toil during a most thorough and careful education; continued habits of indomitable industry and energy; the power and the habit of rigid analysis; of patient investigation and research; thus accumulating large stores of the solid learning of the law; if a ready and persuasive, and often a powerful eloquence, with the graces of a classical mind; and over and above all, the nicest and highest sense of personal and professional honor; if these qualities, as assuredly Mr. Gilpin possessed them, as well in their separate excellence as in their combination—if these have anything to do with the character of an able and accomplished lawyer, unquestionably he was entitled to that praise. Who does not remember the ability, the zeal, he would add the firmness, and enlightened patriotism too—the terms are not too strong —with which, at a memorable period which Mr. Randall has gracefully referred to, he signally dis-

charged the onerous duties, as they then were, of the District Attorneyship of the United States for this District? In this connection, the speaker hoped he might be pardoned if he obtruded a personal recollection. Never had he forgotten, never could he forget, the kindness with which, when first coming forward at this Bar, Mr. Gilpin extended to him the hand of professional invitation, by associating him with himself in some memorable cases tried at that period in the Circuit Court of the United States before two eminent Judges long since departed, the late Judges Baldwin and Hopkinson. He remembered how grateful was that association to him, and it had given him opportunities of close observation of Mr. Gilpin's mind and character and his professional habits which otherwise he might never have had. It formed a link in the retrospect of his earlier years at this Bar, which he recalled with peculiar pleasure, and he performed a duty no less grateful

now to his present feelings, than mournful by all the recent keen associations it so vividly and freshly awakened in thus rendering to his honored memory this feeble and imperfect tribute. He hoped the resolutions would pass unanimously.

Mr. Charles Ingersoll also addressed the meeting, and in glowing, eloquent, and truthful language paid a just tribute to the merits and virtues of the deceased, holding up his conduct and life as an example truly worthy of imitation by the members of the profession, and as a model for all men.

DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Fourth Street, Feb. 3, 1860.

Dear Madam: In the retrospect of an association always brightened by the sunshine of rational enjoyment, your grief may perhaps, at first, be most intense from those causes which will hereafter afford you consolation under your sad bereavement. No friend of Mr. Gilpin will cherish with a sincerer affection and respect than myself the memory of the high intellectual and moral qualities and social graces by which he was distinguished. The inclosed formal proceedings attest inadequately the personal regret with which I sympathize in your affliction.

With great respect and esteem,

I remain your most ob't serv't,

JOHN CADWALADER.

Mrs. Henry D. Gilpin.

In the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, February 1, 1860.

Mr. James C. Van Dyke, District Attorney of the United States for said District, rose and said:—

REMARKS OF MR. JAMES C. VAN DYKE.

May it please the Court: It is my painful privilege to announce to this Court the death of another distinguished member of the Philadelphia Bar.

This last mark of professional and official respect to a deceased brother is at all times attended with melancholy associations; but when we are called on to put upon the record the departure from amongst us of one whose public career and private relations in life have been distinguished for eminent ability, and that gentlemanly courtesy

and kindness that win the heart, the duty is especially a sad one. I perform it, therefore, remarking only among the many things that could be said of the deceased, that Mr. Gilpin has enjoyed a wide-spread reputation in his literary and scientific relations to society, and the legal profession has been rewarded by many lasting proofs of confidence from his fellow-citizens and our government.

With eminent ability he discharged before this Court the duties of Attorney for the United States under the administration of President Jackson, and possessed the warmest confidence of that hero and statesman, and subsequently filled the office of Attorney-General of the United States under the administration of President Van Buren. In the performance of the important duties of these, as well as other high offices, he has erected for our profession, to his memory, an enduring monument.

In all his relations with the Court, with society, and with the learned profession of which he was a beloved member, he has acquired a high national reputation for care, research, and legal acumen, and has won the highest respect and esteem of the profession and his fellow-citizens, who now deeply mourn his loss.

I move that as a mark of respect to the deceased, this Court do now adjourn, and that a suitable record thereof be made upon the minutes.

The Court said:—

### REMARKS OF JUDGE CADWALADER.

The death of Mr. Gilpin is with reason deplored as a public loss. He was a man of extensively varied acquirements. In early life, and also at a later period, his pursuits were not less literary than professional. He was a highly finished

Greek and Latin, and an accomplished English classical scholar. This, however, is not the place in which to mention his literary compositions, or those productions of his pen in which the results of historical research were displayed.

In the legal profession, almost our earliest remembrances of him are associated with this Court. In the prime of his ripening manhood, he was the Attorney of the United States for this District. In this office he became known as an able and well instructed lawyer. The distinction which he attained in it was the cause of successive promotions until he reached the most elevated official position at the bar in our country. When Attorney-General of the United States, the facility, correctness, and dispatch with which the laborious business of his department of the Government was transacted, attested the capacity and efficiency of the officer at its head. His forensic efforts bore comparison with those of his distinguished

official predecessors. He retired from the post with the confidence and esteem of the nation. In his public career his reputation for the purest integrity was always maintained. In private life, no man's character was more spotless; no man was more beloved; of none will the memory be cherished with more affectionate or more merited respect.

As a tribute of respect to the memory of the Honorable Henry D. Gilpin, late Attorney-General of the United States, the Court is adjourned.

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

PHILADELPHIA, February 15, 1860.

MADAM: At a meeting of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, held on the 13th inst., the following resolution, offered by Mr. Joseph R. Ingersoll, was unanimously adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the Historical Society of Pennsylvania performs a mournful duty in recording its expression of respect and esteem for the memory of Henry D. Gilpin, its late valued member. It pays a just tribute to his varied merits, by exhibiting his life and conduct as a never dying lesson, while his body sleeps in death. That it is characteristic of history to teach by bright examples the pure lessons of its peculiar philosophy; and a grateful sense of what it owes to a departed associate is manifested in the delineation of his

character. The example afforded by his active life will be read in his continued observance of its highest duties. A generous recollection of this Society manifested in one of his latest days on earth, will bind its members to his memory in close and affectionate relationship, and they will not forego the satisfaction of cherishing a lasting and united sense of gratitude.

I have the honor to be, Madam,

With great regard, your ob't ser't,

HORATIO GATES JONES, Cor. Sec'y.

To Mrs. Eliza Gilpin.

At the meeting of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, held February 13th, 1860, the President, Dr. George W. Norris, occupied the chair, and a large number of members were present.

The Corresponding Secretary read the minutes of the last stated meeting, and then announced the loss the Society had met with in the death of

its late Vice-President, Henry D. Gilpin. Whereupon Mr. Joseph R. Ingersoll addressed the meeting as follows:—

### REMARKS OF MR. JOSEPH R. INGERSOLL.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the Historical Society: The world has been visited of late with more than the usual loss of valuable life. Death has been busy abroad and among ourselves. Many who have long been regarded as ornaments of their country and a pride to the age, have become, it would almost seem, its selected victims. In this common and multiplied calamity, a sad portion has fallen to our share. Since the last meeting of this Society, and scarcely more than a fortnight ago, the friends of Mr. Gilpin were called upon individually to pay to his memory the tribute of their tears. They now meet as members of an association to express and record their

united testimony to his many virtues. Among those who have done honor to its annals during its not very prolonged existence, none, perhaps, have enjoyed higher claims to respect. History would forget its proper office if it did not preserve and cherish the remembrance of him. It does not, like other science, deal in abstract principles, in theoretic rules, or critical disquisitions; but in vivid and inviting detail of facts and exhibitions, or illustrations of character. Its proper teaching is by example. Events are related, and men are described on its speaking page for study and contemplation. It is a philosophy at once practical and profound. It invites to imitation, and efforts of resemblance, where they are practicable, and if such aims are difficult of accomplishment, it asks that all should emulate good conduct and qualities, and derive the benefit of at least a stimulating exercise.

The best names found upon the long line of

time are not always connected with dazzling and exaggerated exploits, which are performed by few, and are the results of an ardent and impetuous nature, which is admired for its brilliancy, rather than adopted as a model, or even received as an invitation to excel. The charm of a good example consists in an exhibition at all times, with unaffected simplicity, of useful properties for every-day purposes, and a well understood ability to shine when occasion shall call forth more striking displays. Such are the examples which history delights to portray and to honor.

It was the happy fortune of our lamented friend that his merits were easily appreciated, and that most of them could be made marks of imitation and adopted without presumption, or almost unconsciously pursued. It well becomes his memory, and those who desire to cherish it, that the bent of history should be followed by holding them up for study and resemblance. Such a

course is richly due to departed merit, and it is a pledge from surviving friends to adopt the example, where it is possible, and at least to emulate the virtues which they may not hope fully to attain.

An instinctive amiableness of temper was in him above all praise. It diffused around him an atmosphere genial to himself, and of the purest influence upon others. It was contagious to all who breathed it of kindness and good-will. Passion is sometimes said to be eloquent. Mildness of temper is infinitely more attracting and persuasive. The possessor is himself made happy by its exercise, and all around him enjoy his kindness, and return it without an effort. Access is rendered mutually agreeable, intercourse is made itself a charm, and the becoming courtesies of life ceasing to be a burden and a form, are a treasure and a delight. Gentleness of conduct and action followed in our friend the promptings of feelings,

and led for the most part to a kindred and generous return. Its unclouded ray never for a moment forsook him; and companionship of all kinds, whether of business or social life, became its cheerful home.

Never was there a moment when such qualities and the consequences of them were so much in demand. Everywhere around us tendencies exactly the reverse appear to prevail. Mutual forbearance is scarcely known. Violence is the order of the day. Even the law, which ought to be sovereign, and was once our boast as such, has lost its influence upon the many. It has failed in a great degree to restrain, and possesses little power to protect or punish. Our country, instead of being an example, is become a reproach. Nothing would tend so much to restore a proper tone of public sentiment, and with it a rebuke and cessation of habitual crime, as the adoption of examples of kind feeling and amiable

deportment as they have been now bequeathed to us.

Another of his praiseworthy parts was a faculty of attention in all he did—attention to his duties, studies, friendships, and business. He never seemed to lose sight of the observance and devotion which became him, whether in affairs of magnitude or detail. This is the leading motive to industry, which is always the companion, and commonly the parent of continued success. In no department of life can it be dispensed with, and all, perhaps, who have risen to eminence, have been faithful and indefatigable in obedience to its calls.

As the result of these qualities, each of which is of easy imitation to the well disposed, he was proficient as a classical scholar and a man of general knowledge. He delighted in books, and well knew how to profit by them. They were his daily companions, without causing him to neglect

his family, or society, or business affairs. To this familiarity with books he added a knowledge of men which led him to select his friends and to abide by the selection faithfully. In public life this was attended by the best effects, and in private by the most agreeable intimacies. These presented, in their respective spheres, opportunities for strict integrity, and success generally attended his operations. He neglected nothing. Always self-possessed, calm and deliberate in thought and action, with firmness to resist wrong and sustain right, and yet without apparent exertion at any time, he seemed almost instinctively to avoid the evil and adopt the good. After a faithful discharge of duties in high offices of the government, he retired from active business and became associated with objects of taste and literature, and devoted to the enjoyment of a liberal hospitality.

Then turning to a natural desire to visit foreign

lands, he prepared with his usual care for useful observation and a kind reception. From the government and from personal friends, recommendations were freely given to him. After a short stay among the abodes of his maternal relations in Great Britain, he crossed over to the continent and witnessed whatever could gratify a refined taste in different countries. With his habitual choice of eminent friends he became familiarly acquainted at Berlin with Humboldt, then far advanced in life but full of wisdom, and almost the master mind of his day. From Europe he passed into regions of still more ancient renown, and saw the dim records of Egyptian story. He ascended the Nile, whose fertilizing waters supply the place of every cultivation of the soil, and whose torrents from the rains poured upon the adjacent Ethiopian mountains, and causing their periodical overflow with its happy results, suggested to the father of poetry the idea that they fell from Hea-

ven. He visited Athens, and left, it is said, a most agreeable impression there. In Rome he renewed his happiest recollections of classic lore, among her sublime monuments of ancient and modern art, and the ruins scarcely less sublime scattered in lonely majesty over her seven hills. There, too, his once familiar studies could be renewed upon fields consecrated to the Poets of an Augustan age, and he indulged his taste in procuring works of art which now adorn his noble residence. He returned home full of agreeable impressions, and began again a career of friendship and hospitality which had been broken only for a season. His taste for books was especially gratified in repeated visits to the Astor Library, in New York, which is already an honor to the country, and will be a wonder of modern time. Its learned librarian was ever willing to receive and welcome him as a congenial mind.

These pursuits, unhappily, did not serve him

long. It is probable that he brought with him from abroad, unknown to himself, seeds of infirmity which produced bitter fruits to the view of his anxious friends. He gradually withdrew from his accustomed public engagements, and declared his determination not to embark in them again. A life of domestic tranquillity was welcomed, with occasional excursions among his interests at a distance, or his friends. With lessened spirits, his health seemed to fail. The fatal secret was not slow to disclose itself to others, by indications of which he was himself scarcely conscious. A frame never robust gave way under accumulated maladies, and towards the end of January he yielded up his gentle and manly spirit, deeply to the regret, although scarcely to the surprise, of his sorrowing friends.

We have looked with solicitude to an early meeting of this Society as a bond of feeling in common membership. A corresponding influence

seems to have filled the mind of him whose loss we deplore. History, with fidelity and in its true character, loses not a moment to hold up his name and actions, asking that the bright example should live in lasting recollection. A brief interval has preceded this faithful record of his life, and one equally brief preceded his death, when, in unconscious anticipation of these tributes to his memory, some of his latest thoughts were devoted to a most munificent and appropriate endowment, one equally characteristic of the giver and the receiver of the gift. It is possible that views on the one part so generous, and gratitude so just and so deeply felt upon the other, may not speedily in literal extent be accomplished and fulfilled. Yet the legacy will be at once and at all times appreciated and cherished for its design, although an unwise act of modern legislation may frustrate for a season its complete execution.

The resolution expressive of respect and esteem for the memory of Mr. Gilpin was then offered by Mr. Ingersoll.

REMARKS OF MR. WILLIAM B. REED.

Mr. President: I have been requested to second the resolution offered by Mr. Ingersoll, and do so with great though melancholy pleasure. It was not my good fortune to be in the city when my professional brethren met to do honor to Mr. Gilpin's memory, and I should be false to a friendship which, without interruption, has continued for very many years, if I did not avail myself of the first occasion that has presented itself, of adding my tribute to those which have already been paid to his character. It seems to me that no place is more appropriate than this. His professional position has been defined; but here, in a society which claims in some measure to represent

the scholarship and intellectual sympathies of the community, we can well do honor to one whose tastes and habits were eminently those of a scholar and a man of high literature. Of him, as such, I wish especially to speak, and that without the least derogation to his character as a man of practical ability; for his literary tastes never enfeebled his capacity for action, which was very observable when, translated as he was, suddenly to a position of high political eminence and great professional exigency, he found that literature and scholarship had made no enfeebling or damaging marks on him. I ask your permission to speak in a most desultory way of Mr. Gilpin's social career amongst us, or rather to trace my own recollections of him during the thirty odd years of our acquaintance. There was no such difference in our ages as to prevent me from speaking of him as a contemporary.

Mr. Gilpin was, I believe, educated in England;

that is, his boyish education was there. His elementary Latin and Greek were learned there, and they were learned as I very much fear they only can be learned abroad, systematically and thoroughly. They clung to him through life. The shelves of his library showed how steadily his interest in the classics continued. His classical attainments were never obtruded, but they were never disused. I have a very clear recollection of hearing him converse on this subject, and of his attributing whatever merit he had as a writer of his mother language, to the Greek and Latin discipline he had at school; and when at what was, alas, the close of life, he came back from his first and only visit to classic lands, the deep and active interest he felt and expressed, especially for modern Greece as the inheritor of an ancient fame, seemed like the beautiful and crowning capital of that enduring, indestructible column of scholar-like sympathy with all that was heroic in ancient

story, which was founded long ago in his English schoolhouse.

But his foreign education did not spoil him. He became at once an American student, to fit him for his career as an American man. He entered the University of Pennsylvania, and was graduated there in 1819, and at once began the study of the law under the direction of one (Mr. Ingersoll) whose distinction among many others it is—and there are those around me who illustrate what I say—that more accomplished, thoroughly educated Philadelphia lawyers have come from his tuition than from any others of his day. They are all around us now. He is here to-night, joining in this tribute to the memory of his distinguished pupil.

Mr. Gilpin was never an active practitioner at the local bar. Accidental occupation of an official nature, and perhaps a difference of taste, led him aside from that strict career. But he was always

a student of law, and when the time came when he was called on to show the fruit of professional study, he was able to do so. He was for many years an author; not an ambitious one, nor always under his own name, but he seemed glad to avail himself of opportunities, such as then existed, to indulge in this way his literary tastes. The establishment, about that time, of the *National Gazette* (the first, and I fear I must add, the last strictly literary newspaper Philadelphia has ever had), and of the *Quarterly Review*, was quite an event to men of such tastes as Mr. Gilpin. He was a welcome, and, if my memory serves me, a frequent contributor to them. Very few, alas, of those who formed part of this literary association are left to recall its fading traditions. In those days, when the telegraph had not revolutionized the press; when news was sometimes seventy days in crossing the Atlantic, and two days in coming from Washington; when there was time for lite-

rature; when the hard intolerance of politics, and the driving energies of business had not crushed out intellectual communion and literary leisure, there was great luxury in such means of enjoyment as I have spoken of. Mr. Gilpin availed himself largely of them.

I have spoken of the intolerance of politics in this our day. Intolerance, after all, is generally an honest sort of thing, and therefore we may speak of its past exhibitions without offence or danger of hurting any one's feelings. At one period of his life no one had more occasion to feel and deplore its excess than Mr. Gilpin. Appointed a government director of a great institution, with which then the government was at war, or, to state an alternative, which was at war with the government, Mr. Gilpin encountered in the discharge of his duties a strong current of local public sentiment which it was hard to stem. He survived it. No imputation ever rested on his

integrity or his honor; and when I saw the other day, assembled around his remains, the most eminent of our fellow-citizens of every rank of life, of every pursuit, and of all shades of politics, and then recalled the not very distant past, I could not but feel the lesson that it taught, and the worse than folly of the intolerance of any one's honest opinions.

In 1840, Mr. Gilpin, after being District Attorney and Solicitor of the Treasury, was appointed by President Van Buren Attorney-General of the United States, and continued in office about a year. He had a fame to make for himself, and a fame to sustain for the State and the bar to which he belonged. With the exception of a short tenure by the late Mr. Rush, no Philadelphian or Pennsylvanian had held the office of Attorney-General since General Washington's administration, and our deceased friend, than whom no one had a stronger or truer sentiment of local loyalty,

was conscious of what was looked for. He met the public expectations completely, and retired from office with a reputation as a statesman and a national lawyer, such as his friends scarcely anticipated. His adversaries at that great bar, for such it always has been, were Webster, and Clay, and Benton, and Sergeant, and Crittenden, and David B. Ogden. The Amistad case was argued by Mr. Gilpin against Mr. Adams; and the still greater case, involving the prohibition of the importation of slaves into Mississippi, Grover *vs.* Slaughter, was a professional conflict in which, on one side, were two Pennsylvania men, classmates and graduates of 1819, Mr. Gilpin and Mr. Robert J. Walker (the only one of all still surviving), and on the other Mr. Clay and Mr. Webster. Until I had occasion to look into it, I had no adequate idea of our friend's great official labors and success. The single class of cases argued by him, arising under the Florida and Louisiana treaties, aside

from those I have specified, attest his ability fully. There are still surviving on that venerable bench four of the judges who recall Mr. Gilpin, when, before it, he defended the great interests of the government; and they, I am sure, bear strong testimony in support of what I have ventured to refer to.

Mr. Gilpin retired from political life at the termination of Mr. Van Buren's term, and it is incidentally worth observing that nothing was more attractive than the continuing friendship which, to the hour of Mr. Gilpin's death, existed between him and the ex-President. It had survived mere official and political intercourse. It was eminently the manifestation of that thorough congeniality of temper and habits of mind which was characteristic of both. In a year or two afterwards, bringing back the fame he had earned, as part of our property and our honor, he resumed his residence in Philadelphia. It was, I believe, never inter-

rupted, except during a visit of two years abroad. That, as I have said, was the journey of the scholar and the man of taste. It went far beyond the limits which circumvent the mere traveller for pleasure—and its fruits were, new tastes acquired, old ones invigorated, trophies of art, and treasures of conversation, all of which continued to cheer and adorn what has proved to be a mere remnant of life, and to make his house what it has been for years, a centre of social attraction, and the abode of the most graceful and habitual hospitality.

I feel, and we all feel, that in him we have lost a friend, a fellow-citizen, whose place cannot be exactly filled. He was proud of Philadelphia, the city of his boyhood and manhood. He felt that to this soil, and to his personal associations here, he owed some of the success of life. He never shrank from public trusts, however laborious, but actively administered them, till waning health warned him to retire; and one of the last acts of

his public-spirited life was to endeavor, by large and judicious munificence, to pay some portion of the debt which he thought he owed to Philadelphia. His, at the close of life, was the reward of habitual geniality of temper, that proved itself in uniform amenity of manner. He left, I believe, no enemies. We are showing, to-night, that he is sincerely mourned by many friends.

I second the resolutions.

Mr. S. Austin Allibone then read a number of letters which had been received from citizens of other parts of the country, relative to Mr. Gilpin; among them were the following:—

FROM MR. EDWARD EVERETT.

Boston, February 2, 1860.

My Dear Sir: It affords me a melancholy satisfaction, at your request, to express my sincere sympathy with you in the loss of our greatly lamented friend, Mr. Gilpin. It is a loss not only to your city, but to the country, not easily to be supplied; every way deserving to be mentioned with the other great losses, which have been sustained by science and literature during the past twelvemonth. He was too well known in Philadelphia to need any attestation, on my part, to his worth; but it may be gratifying to his friends there to know, that he was appreciated at a distance. It is true that an intimate friendship of more than thirty years prevents my speaking of him with impartiality; it has, however, afforded me the means of becoming acquainted with the sterling traits of his character.

To talents of a superior order he united the highest literary culture—the fruit of indefatigable and well directed study—and with these were associated a most amiable disposition, affable manners, and a character without reproach. He early rose to eminence in his profession, being, while yet a young man, appointed United States District Attorney for the State of Pennsylvania, and having not long afterwards filled the offices of Attorney and Solicitor-General of the United States. In these offices, and in the practice of his profession, he gained the reputation of a learned and accomplished lawyer and a powerful advocate. His heart, however, was not in his profession, and he gladly availed himself of an early acquired and honorable competence to gratify more congenial tastes—but not till he had given to the world a volume of Reports of Cases adjudicated, while he filled the office of District Attorney, and a collection in two volumes of the opinions of the Attor-

ney-General from the foundation of the government to the year 1841. On his retirement from public life, at the close of President Van Buren's administration, he gave himself wholly to letters, to the fine arts, to education, to foreign travel, and the formation of a very large and well chosen library. He was a diligent student of ancient literature, and had few equals in this country in his acquaintance with the Latin and Greek classics. His library was amply furnished with the best editions, which he read critically and systematically. You are well acquainted with his taste for the fine arts; his delightful mansion was a museum of paintings and statuary, and he rendered important services to the Academy of Fine Arts, of which he was the President. He was also, as you are well aware, one of the most active members of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, of which he was Vice-President, and a Director of Girard College. He took a paternal interest

in the welfare of this last named institution, and delighted to watch the progress of its inmates.

Mr. Gilpin was a liberal contributor to some periodical publications, and wrote many valuable articles in the leading critical journals. He was the author of several of the Biographies of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and the second edition of that work was wholly revised and greatly enlarged by him. Other productions of his pen are mentioned in your dictionary. The country is greatly indebted to him for his carefully prepared and accurate edition of the Madison papers; and his Address on the character of Franklin contains one of the ablest and most judicious discussions of his career and services, which has appeared. It is a matter of deep regret that he was not more frequently led to pour out the rich treasures of his mind for the gratification of the reading world. Had his life been spared, it is not impossible that he would have devoted his ad-

vancing years to some work of broader compass than any of his occasional productions. It was in his power in this way to have made a contribution to American literature of standard and permanent value.

Mr. Gilpin's library was one of the largest and best selected private libraries in the country. It covered the whole field of general literature, ancient and modern, and was gradually formed, not for ostentation, but use, in the progress of his studies. It was particularly rich in maps, charts, and plans of cities. It was his custom in travelling, to carry away from every place visited by him some such local memorial. I doubt if an American ever went abroad better prepared to derive advantage from his travels in Europe and the East, or returned with a larger store of intelligent observation.

I need not speak to you of the beauty of Mr. Gilpin's well-ordered domestic life; of his refined

and elegant tastes; his wide sympathies, and the charm of his conversation. Rarely has the grave closed prematurely on such varied excellence of character.

I remain, dear sir, as ever, sincerely yours,

EDWARD EVERETT.

FROM MR. CORNELIUS C. FELTON, PRESIDENT OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

PHILADELPHIA, February 10, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR: Your letter, announcing the death of Mr. Gilpin, reached Cambridge after I left home, and was forwarded to me in this city.

My personal acquaintance with our departed friend dates back only a few years; but I have long been familiar with his distinguished merits as a public man, and his various accomplishments as a scholar and writer. In 1853 and 1854 I followed in his track in a European tour, and I was

made pleasantly aware how welcome he made himself to the most cultivated persons by his refined manners, his literary acquirements, his courteous bearing, and the intelligent observations he made in the several countries through which he travelled. He visited Greece a few months before my arrival in that country. To his highly cultivated taste the illustrious associations of that classic land and the matchless remains of antiquity in Athens were objects of the profoundest interest. But his interest was not limited to these. He studied the condition of the existing Hellenic race, the institutions of education, letters, and science they have established, with the appreciation of a statesman and the sympathy of a philanthropist. He did not, like some European and American travellers, mistake the runners of Piræus and the guides of Smyrna for types of the national character. He saw things with his own eyes; heard with his own ears; judged with his

own understanding; and the conclusions he drew, from his own observations, as to the character and destiny of the Hellenic race, were worthy of his fine culture and his feeling heart. They were expressed in a candid and able letter, addressed by him to a gentleman of Athens after leaving the city; and when published in the Athenian journals, were received by the people of Greece with enthusiasm. I heard his name often mentioned with respect and affection; as his opinions were constantly referred to in the most gratifying terms. His interest in the language, literature, and general progress of the kingdom of Greece, remained unabated after his return to the United States, and on all these subjects he kept himself well informed. I had the good fortune to meet him soon afterwards, and I have enjoyed his intimacy, and received many marks of his cordial friendship, ever since; and the esteem which I had always felt for him ripened into a sincere affection. The

kindness of his genial and gentle nature; the exquisite tastes which he had so assiduously cultivated; his attractive conversation; his refined hospitality, were a perpetual charm. I never passed through Philadelphia without seeing him; I never saw him without instruction and delight; I never parted from him without regret. I received letters from him occasionally, all characteristic of his elegance of mind and warmth of heart. Before leaving home, last month, I heard of his illness. In New York I learned from our common friend, Mr. Cogswell, of the Astor Library, that his illness was serious: still I hoped to see him again, and to listen to his kindly words once more. Six days only before his death I called at his house, with some pamphlets I had just received from Athens, but, alas! I found he was too feeble to receive me. From the account I received of his condition, I left his door with a heavy heart, convinced that his life was rapidly drawing to its

close, and that I should behold his face no more. I was fully prepared for the sad event; but when his death, on the following Sunday, was announced in the Washington papers, the intelligence struck me with a painful shock. One of the greatest pleasures I had promised myself during my absence from home was to see and converse with him, on subjects of common interest to both of us:—and now he is gone forever! He was one of the brightest ornaments of your city; but his death will be universally lamented. The memory of his virtues, as exhibited in the daily beauty of his life; admiration of his refined tastes and intellectual accomplishments, as seen in his writings; in the noble library he had collected about him; and in the masterpieces of art with which he had made his house a temple of the Muses, will long be cherished in the society which he adorned, and in the hearts of his distant friends; and his reputation will become a part of his country's fame.

With sincere sympathy with you and your associates in this bereavement, I am, dear sir,

Very truly, your friend,

C. C. FELTON.

After reading these letters Mr. Allibone added the following remarks:—

REMARKS OF MR. S. AUSTIN ALLIBONE.

These, Mr. President, are indeed noble tributes to the memory of the departed. *Laudari a viro laudato* is as true now as it was on the day when it first fell from the pen of the great Cicero, and no man would have been more sensible of the value of the eulogies which we have just heard than the one whose accomplishments and virtues have elicited them. But, precious as are such offerings, the friends of the departed feel that they purchase

them at too dear a price; for, alas! the altar upon which they are offered is the monumental marble!

I have been requested, Mr. President, to offer some remarks at this sad convocation, and this duty I shall fulfil, so far as it may be discharged by a brief reference to those characteristics of our late fellow-member, for which he has been justly and pathetically commended. These characteristics may be thus classified: 1. Literary Culture; 2. Zeal in the Cause of Education; 3. Interest in the Promotion of the Fine Arts; 4. Large and Generous Hospitality.

With Mr. Gilpin's well selected library—the largest private collection in Philadelphia, and one of the best in the land—many of us are doubtless familiar. It has been my privilege to travel over the whole collection, from shelf to shelf, with the advantage of the intelligent owner as my companion and commentator. I can therefore speak with some knowledge of my theme, and with that

personal interest in the volumes that such prized association must necessarily confer. It was very pleasant to notice the interest with which the arrival of one literary stranger after another—destined to find a haven on the capacious shelves of the owner—was hailed by the gratified host. One might have supposed, had the names or titles of the new busts, or charts, or volumes been omitted, that the long expected advent of some dear friend was the subject of the announcement. And with what joy did he gaze upon those treasures as newly arranged, which, alas! he was so soon to quit forever!

"I shall be glad," he writes to me, "to show you the arrangements of my new library (though my books are not yet all in their places), and a very beautiful bust of our friend, Mr. Everett, which he has been kind enough to send us to fill one of the niches. I should like also to show you a very nice and complete copy, with all the sup-

plements and indexes, of Maittaire and Panzer, which I received lately from Paris."

The reference to the *Annales Typographici* of Panzer naturally suggests a favorite theme of the bibliographer—the best editions of the Greek and Latin classics; and how rich Mr. Gilpin's library is in this department—in working editions, not referring to those which are valuable only for their rarity—I need hardly remind you. His familiarity with these great masters of reason, speculation, and eloquence—and it is rarely given to mortals to be equally familiar with the languages of Demosthenes, of Cicero, and of Chatham—has been just attested by our illustrious countryman, whom, even in his youth, the French translator of Plato (M. Cousin)—I received it from the lips of Mr. Charles Sumner, to whom the remark was made—declared to be one of the best Grecians he ever knew. That American scholars concurred in this high estimate of Mr. Everett's proficiency is

evinced by the remarkable fact of his election at the early age of twenty-one to the Greek professorship of Harvard University. For the distinguished leaders in this difficult department of learning it need hardly be said Mr. Gilpin entertained feelings of filial reverence. As respects English scholarship, where the question of supremacy lies only between two great names, his opinion can be most fairly given in his own words, which I give, as to the case, with all my quotations of his language from his letters to myself. Declining to give a verdict founded upon the results of his own philological investigations, as to the respective claims of Bentley and Porson, Mr. Gilpin proceeds to remark: "With the most profound appreciation of the various merits of the latter (Porson), on which, of course, I cannot here dilate, I think I may safely say, without fear of contradiction, that no really great scholar of the continent, or even of England—except from col-

legiate or personal affinities—has ever placed him on the same bench with the great master of Trinity."

In confirmation of this unquestionably correct statement of the matter, he refers, most appropriately, to the two volumes of the Correspondence of Dr. Bentley, the editorship of which was transferred by Bishop Monk—whom Mr. Gilpin calls "no small scholar"—to the Rev. J. Wordsworth, and by him bequeathed as a fraternal legacy to the Rev. Dr. Christopher Wordsworth, canon of Westminster, who completed this valuable publication (London, 1842, 2 vols. 8vo.).

Of Colonel Mure's elaborate Critical History of the Language and Literature of Ancient Greece, from the Earliest Period to the Death of Solon, 1850–'57, 2 vols. 8vo., Mr. Gilpin expressed the following opinion:—

"I have not yet read the last volume of Colonel Mure's work, but I shall do so in a few days, when

I will with pleasure give you my opinion of it. Some time has passed since I read the previous volumes, but I remember to have thought them very full, candid, and useful, with conclusions generally sound, but hardly rising in tone or conception to the greatness and beauty of his subject, especially where it embraces Homer. Still, I think it a most valuable contribution to classic literature."

That an ardent admirer of the wisdom and genius of Socrates should entertain in the same degree an aversion to the satirist who holds up the sage of the "Memorabilia of Xenophon," the "Dialogues of Plato," and the "Strictures of Aristotle" to our ridicule and contempt, is no marvel. Nor could the philological skill of Mitchell reconcile Mr. Gilpin to his original.

"As regards Mitchell's Aristophanes," he remarks: "I believe there is a very general accordance as to its great merit as a translation; but it

is long since I read it; for, as you remark, the .... old slanderer is no favorite of mine." Of this distaste for the author of the "Clouds" some present will probably remember Mr. Gilpin made no secret.

The progress of the great work of his attached friend, Mr. Grote, who sent him, as they were published, volume after volume of his History of Greece, was watched with no little anxiety, and when at last, after the labors of thirty-two years, the author presented the twelfth volume to his American correspondent, Mr. Gilpin, in announcing this fact to the present speaker, expressed his regret that it was doomed to be "the last." He considered, and I know that he was not alone in this view of the matter, that it is much to be desired that Mr. Grote should bring down his chronicle to a later period, and thus include several of the collateral branches of the great intellectual family, the members of which were glorious in

their strength, and graceful and beautiful even in their decline. This was one of the topics of conversation at the last interview I enjoyed with Mr. Gilpin.

In modern Greek he took a lively interest, and was greatly pleased with the results of the investigations in that department of his valued friend, Professor Felton—whom he lived long enough to see elevated to the highest literary position in the United States, the Presidency of Harvard College—a worthy successor of Dunster, Chauncy, Willard, Kirkland, Quincy, Everett, and Sparks. How near to Mr. Gilpin's heart was the regeneration of the classic land of eloquence and poetry, of statuary and of song, those can testify who remember his reminiscences of his residence in Athens, and his sympathy with the arduous and long protracted labors of Mr. and Mrs. Hill.

As regards English literature, he ranked Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire at

the very head of the long list of great works of fact which constitute no small part of the glory of our branch of the human family. It would be easier to question this verdict than to disprove it. He compared this magnificent intellectual structure to a noble cathedral, grand in its outlines, exquisite in its proportions, perfect in its parts. At the same time he thought the historian had been properly rebuked for his occasional indelicacy and frequent irreverence when manners, morals, and religion were the subject of his eloquent pen.

In literary discussions, whether oral or epistolary, he expressed his dissent from his friend with as much readiness as he displayed in the expression of sympathetic admiration.

Of Sir James Mackintosh, of Lord Macaulay, and of another author, who shall be nameless, because our countryman and a personal acquaint-

ance, I presume, of several in this hall, he writes me:—

"I am not sure that I participate in the enthusiastic admiration of them which I think, under your just impartiality, you still feel. Especially the latter (Macaulay), I cannot think that he is to stand among historians half a century hence in the niche where fashion and whig criticism have placed him, or that he is to affect the pre-eminence of Clarendon, Hume, Gibbon, or of Grote. . . . . Even his much praised and elaborate picture painting quite fails to leave on the memory impressions of events and characters such as we retain from Clarendon and Hume, nor do I think that all the praises of all the magazines will long substitute his versions of the legends of Virginia or Horatii for those of Livy."

As regards our own authors, Dr. Lieber tells me, in a letter received since Mr. Gilpin's decease, "I recollect he once said to me that he consid-

ered Mr. Everett the ablest American writer of the English language." This observation, I judge from the tenor of the letter in which it is contained, was made many years since. That Mr. Gilpin retained to his last hour warm admiration for Mr. Everett's scholarly and literary as well as personal characteristics, probably many near me could bear witness.

But our late associate, thus learned, thus kind, thus candid, and thus courteous, has been removed from our sight! in the expressive language of scripture, he has been "gathered to his fathers!" "His fathers!" And who were they? Men of renown in their days for learning, for courage, for zeal, and for taste. I have referred to Mr. Gilpin's prominent character as properly classified under the heads of literary culture; zeal in the cause of education; interest in the promotion of the fine arts; large and generous hospitality. He has a right to all these ornaments of human cha-

racter, Mr. President—a right by inheritance. I can exhibit the title-deeds to them all, and show the course of succession, if that were needful. To say nothing of the eminent members of the Gilpin family, who have carried to this side of the Atlantic a genealogical roll, "rich with the spoils of time," above "the boast of heraldry and the pomp of power," and yet not wanting these, let me remind you of Bernard Gilpin, the great apostle of the north, who, after laboring zealously for the faith in which he was born, cast in his lot with the reformers, and chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of his choice than to enjoy the preferments of a church which he could not love, and of a Queen whom he could not serve. Of Bernard Gilpin, so learned that in his youth Wolsey heard of his fame, and the Church of Rome sought him as an opponent to Peter Martyr; so zealous, that he refused a mitre, and became an itinerant preacher, drawing vast audiences

in the barns and fields of four counties of the kingdom; so courageous, that when the arch-persecutor, Bonner, promised to burn him at the stake that day fortnight, Gilpin himself prepared his robe, and day by day wore it on his person, as a bride "adorns herself with her jewels;" so hospitable, that he entertained at three daily tables the home-born and the stranger, from every clime and of every religion; and so munificent, that the Lord Treasurer Burleigh, whose dwelling had been in queens' palaces, declared that he "could hardly have expected more at Lambeth" than he found at the country house of Bernard Gilpin. After he had parted with the hospitable rector at his door, Burleigh paused on an eminence that commanded the parsonage, and contrasting the peaceful scene with the intrigues and factions of the splendid court to which he was hastening, exclaimed: "There is the enjoyment of life, indeed! Who can blame that man for not accepting of a

bishopric? What doth he want to make him greater, or happier, or more useful to mankind?"

This good man, after serving his generation, fell asleep in the year 1583, twenty years before the first Stuart ascended the throne of England. I could speak, too, of George Gilpin, the brother of Bernard, the friend of Roger Ascham, the privy councillor of Queen Elizabeth, and her ambassador at the Hague, where he negotiated the treaty against Spain, of 1596, between Elizabeth of England, Henry IV. of France, and the Dutch Republic, whose painful struggle into life has been so well narrated by our countryman, Mr. Motley; of Dr. Richard Gilpin, who died in 1699, famous both in medicine and divinity, whose Demonologia Sacra, or the Treatise of Satan's Temptations, so thrills the soul of the commentator in Ryland's Life of Cotton Mather, that he exclaims in a paroxysm of horror: "If ever there was a man that was clearly acquainted with the cabinet councils

of hell, this author is the man;" of William Gilpin, the vicar of Boldre and prebendary of Sarum, a zealous divine and an accomplished artist, who left the profits of his publications to found schools among the people for whose benefit he had labored whilst still living; of Sawrey Gilpin, of the Royal Academy, and of his son, William Sawrey Gilpin, both artists of great reputation; and others there are who have adorned the annals of this remarkable family[1] (as remarkable in divinity, diplomacy, and art as is the family of Gregory in science, of whom I cannot now speak particularly). I have said more than enough to prove my position, that our late associate had a right, by descent, to his love of letters, of art, and of hospitality.

Mr. Everett well remarks: "It is a matter of deep regret that he was not more frequently led to pour out the rich treasures of his mind for the gratification of the reading world," etc. It is a source of satisfaction to me to remember that this

was a subject which, from time to time, I pressed upon Mr. Gilpin's attention, both by word and letter: it is only justice to him to present his defence, in his own language: "I am not without hope," he writes me on the 28th of last May, 1859, "that my taste for writing may return; but it would now be an irksome task to me; divorcing me from congenial pursuits, social and artistic, to some extent at least, and even from those studies in letters and philosophy which are every day leading me into pleasant recesses of imagination and thought, that I find both numerous and unexplored. Do you remember Horace's charming letter (admirably imitated by Pope) to Mecænas, when he sought to win him back to writing more verses, after age and inclination had driven the muse away?"

We have spoken of the courtesy and hospitality of Mr. Gilpin: we have good reason to remember that his kind offices did not cease with the last

sad duties, such as we have recently paid to him. When the republic of letters was called upon to mourn the loss of the great historian of "the consolidation of the Spanish monarchy and the expulsion of the Moors, the mighty theme of the discovery of America, the sorrowful glories of Columbus, the mail-clad forms of Cortez and Pizarro, and the other grim *conquistadores*, trampling new-found empires under the hoofs of their cavalry; of the cruelties of Alva, and the fierce struggle of the Moslem in the East—(I borrow here the eloquent language of Edward Everett)—when Prescott laid down the burden of life with the harness on his back, it was our late associate who acted as our organ in expressing the sympathy of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, with the sorrow elicited throughout the civilized world by this bereavement. You will find his tribute side by side with those of Everett, Bancroft, Sparks, Ticknor, Felton, Winthrop, Frothingham, and Folsom, in

the Prescott memorial, and in the beautiful little exequial volume dedicated to the memory of the great Bostonian, by the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Had Mr. Gilpin's state of health allowed it, I doubt not that he would have done as much for the memory of Washington Irving. Mortified that, whilst New York and Boston were mourning in solemn municipal and literary convocations, with flags at half-mast and insignia obscured by crape, the decease of our American literary Nestor, Philadelphia should take no note of the common loss, I appealed to our late fellow-member to save at least this Society from the reproach of such neglect.

He thus replied on the 7th of December, only six weeks before he himself became the theme of an epitaph and the subject of a biographer's pen. "Such shadows we are!"

"Many thanks to you, my dear sir," he writes,

in regard to a notice by me of Mr. Irving for our Historical Society. "I think I understood from Mr. —— that some arrangements had been already made; I am sure they are contemplated. For myself, I am sorry to say that I am quite incompetent; for neither intellectually nor physically does my strength improve so as to enable me to count from day to day, hardly from hour to hour, on any ability for the least exertion. I doubt now whether even my strong personal friendship for Mr. Rush would enable me to perform towards his memory the acceptable task which I could accomplish last summer." Some of those who hear me are aware of the circumstances with which the admirable sketch of Mr. Rush's truly patriotic career was composed. On a bed of sickness, written from time to time as strength was meted out for the friendly office, on scraps of paper, the contents of which were copied for the press by the librarian of this Society. We may

readily believe, what indeed we know to be the truth, that the family of the distinguished son of a distinguished sire, Dr. Benjamin Rush, the subject of eulogy by crowned heads abroad, and the zealous promoter of public weal and domestic happiness at home, were deeply affected by such a tribute thus offered in weakness of body, but strength of affection.

"It may be gratifying to Mr. Gilpin's friends in Philadelphia," remarks Mr. Everett, "to know that he was appreciated at a distance. Of this fact I can give an affecting illustration. On his last visit to Philadelphia, Mr. Charles Sumner, as many here are well aware, one of the most accomplished of American scholars, remarked to me that he was anxious to see Mr. Gilpin before he left the city. He had just returned from Europe, and he wished to bring to his friend the last tidings of those who knew, honored, and loved him, on the other side of the Atlantic. We went together to

see him, and found him in his library, but so weak (this was the eighteenth day before his death) that he was unable to rise to receive us. Yet he conversed with great animation, as favorite topics were introduced and the names of loving friends and kind messages fell from Mr. Sumner's lips. As I have already intimated, he regretted that Mr. Grote had not told us more of Greece, before he turned into the groves and porticos to listen and report to the world the great thoughts uttered by Aristotle and by Plato. He doubted whether Lord Macaulay would be able to bring down his eloquent history to the period assigned by him at its commencement. Alas! gentlemen, we little thought that the grave of the noble historian was then dug in Westminster Abbey, and that the feet of those who were to carry our friend to the burial were then almost at the door of his mansion. Yet Mr. Sumner was painfully impressed with the altered appearance of our late

associate, and remarked to me as we left the library, 'I am glad that I have seen Mr. Gilpin, for I think I shall never see him again.'"

It proved to be a true premonition. When we last sought him, gentlemen, we found him as we were accustomed to find him, in his noble library, surrounded in death by the books which in life he had loved so well. It was a solemn meeting; a day much to be remembered by all who cherish—and who does not cherish?—pleasing though sad recollections of the departed.

Surrounded by the wisdom of all ages, whose immortal productions he had gathered from every clime; surrounded by the friends with whom he had often held sweet converse on the great themes which have employed the pens and divided the minds of the masters of science, of philosophy, and of letters; his body was carried thence to "the house appointed for all living," while his spirit, we humbly trust, is joined to that "great

company whom no man can number, who, from every nation, and people, and tongue, are gathered together as trophies of redeeming love, to go out from thence no more forever."

The President then submitting the resolution to a vote, it was unanimously adopted.

---

NOTE.

(See page 104.)

The Gilpins in England and America.—The family of Gilpin had from a very early period been settled at Kentmere, county of Westmoreland, England. From Edwin Gilpin, who lived in the latter part of the fifteenth and beginning of the sixteenth century, were descended George Gilpin, the friend of Roger Ascham, Privy Councillor of Queen Elizabeth, and Bernard Gilpin, the "Apostle of the North," born 1517, died 1583. Thomas Gilpin, the great-nephew of Bernard, fought in the Parliamentary army, at Worcester, against the Stuarts, and after their restoration settled at Warborough, in the vale of the Thames, exchanged his sword for a ploughshare or pruning-hook, and became a member of the Society of Friends or Quakers. Joseph, the third son of Thomas, was born at Warborough, in 1664, and settled on the banks of the Brandywine Creek, on the borders of the counties of Chester and Delaware, Pennsylvania, in 1696. Thomas Gilpin, the grandson of Jo-

seph, was born at this place (*supra*) March 18th, 1728, and died at Winchester, Virginia, March 2d, 1778. Joshua Gilpin, the eldest son of Thomas Gilpin, and the father of Henry D. Gilpin, was born at Philadelphia November 8th, 1765, and died at Kentmere, on the Brandywine Creek, in 1842. Henry D. Gilpin, son of Joshua Gilpin, and the subject of this notice, was born in England in the year 1801, and died January 29th, 1860. It will thus be seen that Henry D. Gilpin was the eighth in descent from Edwin Gilpin, who died some years after 1517, and the fourth in descent from Joseph Gilpin, who settled on the banks of the Brandywine in 1696.

Shortly after the meeting of the Society, letters from Mr. RIVES and Mr. DALLAS were received; and while this volume is in the hands of the printer, a letter from Mr. GRIGSBY, in reply to an invitation to meet the Society, at its annual dinner, has appeared in the report thereof. It has been thought proper to insert them here.

LETTER FROM MR. W. C. RIVES.

CASTLE HILL, February 13, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR: In consequence of an absence of several days from home, I have just had the honor of receiving your letter of the 6th instant.

As the proceedings before the Historical Society in honor of our lamented friend, Mr. Gilpin, are to take place to-day, it is now too late for me to say anything in time for that occasion, if, indeed, under any circumstances, I were capable of offering a tribute at all worthy of his memory. No one could have felt more deeply pained at the unexpected announcement of his death than I did. I was looking forward with the liveliest interest to the prospect of meeting him soon and renewing my conversations with him on subjects of common interest to us both, when, to my great affliction

and dismay, the intelligence of his death caught my eye in the columns of a newspaper.

Though I can hardly claim the honor of an intimate acquaintance with him, as our opportunities of personal intercourse were far less frequent than I could have wished, yet the amiable blandness of his manners, his winning modesty, the enlightened candor of his opinions, and his cordial sympathy in all generous and noble pursuits, inspired me with sentiments of the warmest esteem, and made me constantly desirous of knowing more and more of him. In my last meeting with him, which was at Newport, just eighteen months ago, we entered together on a vein of speculation and inquiry which I promised myself the highest pleasure and instruction in pursuing with him at a future, and I then hoped not a distant period. I feel most keenly his loss, as well to the country as to the private circle which he adorned; and though not able to unite in the merited honors which will be

rendered this day to his memory, I have the sad privilege of mingling my sorrows over his tomb with those of his most intimate and devoted friends.

Believe me, my dear sir, with cordial regard, very truly and faithfully yours,

WILLIAM C. RIVES.

LETTER FROM MR. GEO. M. DALLAS, MINISTER AT THE COURT OF ST. JAMES.

My Dear Sir: I received through Mr. Trübner your letter referring to the death of my deeply lamented friend Mr. Gilpin, and touching upon your interview with him, and his mention of me. He was among the oldest and closest of my associates. I persuaded him to make his "premier pas" in politics, with a pamphlet in vindication of the policy of our government towards the Indians. From that moment he attracted the attention he

merited, and fulfilled the duties of a rising career until he entered Mr. Van Buren's cabinet as Attorney-General. The nature of his last illness appalled me. I begged him to abstain from writing to me until his health was restored, and I continued to write to him as often as I could, in the hope of contributing to cheer him. He was, however, not conscious how fast he was going, and during a short restoration of energy about two weeks before he died, he wrote me one of the longest letters I ever got from him—six pages of quarto paper—to which I replied with an earnest recommendation of a visit to Cuba—a recommendation he probably did not live to receive. . . .

Always faithfully and sincerely yours,

GEORGE M. DALLAS.

LETTER FROM MR. HUGH BLAIR GRIGSBY.

EDGEHILL, VA., October 26, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR: I regret my inability to be present with you at your anniversary festival on the 8th of November. At this moment, when the great divisions of our common country are apparently arrayed against each other, I look with greater regard than ever on those associations which, like your own, tend to freshen the recollections of a glorious past, and to assemble the patriots of all the States around a common altar.

But as I cannot be present in person, may I take the liberty of proposing a sentiment to the memory of two departed friends, whom I loved while they were living, whom I lament now that they are gone, and who, though belonging to different generations, and hailing from different

States, have been united by the generous offices of literature in a common destiny.

With great respect,

I am your friend and servant,

HUGH BLAIR GRIGSBY.

To Townsend Ward, Esq., Philadelphia.

James Madison and Henry D. Gilpin. — As long as the published volumes of the writings of the sage of Montpelier survive, they will afford an honorable memorial of the indefatigable industry, the profound research, and the glowing patriotism of their editor.

It has been thought proper to insert in this part of the volume the following article from the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin of February 4th, 1860.

Noble Liberality.—In speaking of Harvard College, in a recent editorial, we adverted to the liberality which had so richly endowed that institution, making it an honor to Massachusetts. In holding it up as an example to Pennsylvanians, we did not suppose that we should be able so soon to chronicle the generosity of one of our own citizens, and in directions, too, implying the finest kind of culture.

It is understood that Henry D. Gilpin has left his large and valuable library—after the death of Mrs. Gilpin—to the Historical Society of Pennsyl-

vania, with provision also for a building in which the library shall be preserved. We presume that the building will also furnish accommodations for the meetings of the Society, and for the present library and works of art.

The Society has long felt the need of a building. Its hall is in the third story of the Athenæum, of course somewhat inconvenient of access. It is quite too small for meetings of the Society of special interest, and for its growing library and gallery. The New York Historical Society has erected a suitable building, and its meetings are attended often by the *élite* of city and State.

The history of Pennsylvania surely does not yield in interest to that of any sister State. "Founded by deeds of peace," its whole progress has been characterized by a steady honesty that challenges investigation. In our own city, and all over the State, those who laid the foundations

of society have been men of whom we may well be proud, and nothing can be more appropriate and interesting than that the active and energetic men of this generation should suitably honor them.

Mr. Gilpin presided at the meeting of the Society at which Mr. Granville John Penn presented the Wampum Belt, which was the pledge of perpetual friendship at the Treaty made under the Elm, at Shackamaxon. We had the pleasure of hearing the interesting address with which he welcomed Mr. Penn and received the belt. In the address Mr. Gilpin remarked: "The feeling that, as time is passing by, many interesting memorials of the life and actions of Penn, and many events in the early annals of our State might sink into oblivion, induced those by whom our association was founded to endeavor to rescue, secure, and preserve them. At a meeting assembled in the humble edifice, yet existing, where William

Penn himself dwelt, and on the anniversary of the day when he first landed on our shore, the design of forming such an institution had its origin.

"The treaty of Shackamaxon—'the treaty not sworn to and never broken'—is the beacon spot in the history of Pennsylvania. The sloping margin of the Delaware, with the site of its venerable elm, and the treaty made beneath its spreading branches, take their place in human story with the olive tree of Athens, on her rocky citadel, with the fountain of Numa, the meadow of Grütli, the island of Runnymede, and the memorable events of which they were the scenes; and when you, sir, come thus bearing this memorial, we welcome you, not only as one who has guarded a trophy that honors the memory of him from whom it has descended to you, but because we are proud and grateful to receive it on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania, to whom it so appropriately belongs; not, indeed, as the pledge of a compact

they can now be called on to fulfil, but as the evidence and symbol of the Christian spirit in which their institutions were laid at the first, and of the standing obligations of benevolence and justice which they have inherited with them."

These words, we now find, were not a mere form. Mr. Gilpin placed a proper estimate upon the Historical Society, as he has shown by the most satisfactory of all evidence.

While on this subject, we cannot refrain from a momentary digression to remark upon the unsatisfactory condition of the site of the Treaty Tree. Surely Philadelphia is not true to herself, or one of her finest parks would surround that spot, planted and ornamented in every suitable way, making that "sloping margin of the Delaware" a spot as beautiful as the recollections that embalm it.

But the other object to which Mr. Gilpin has devoted a portion of his ample fortune, is one

every way worthy of him. If there be anything which is needed to soften the rough aspect of a Republic, it is the Fine Arts. A few men have struggled nobly to sustain our Pennsylvania Academy. They have preserved the valuable property on Chestnut Street, and they have secured as many valuable works of art as the limited means which have been placed at their disposal could command. Mr. Gilpin was, for some time, President of the Academy, and we now learn that he has left a handsome bequest to it.

We will not even imagine the case that any of our readers need an argument to convince them of the refining, civilizing, and elevating influence of true art. But we always regret to see a man of wealth and intelligence passing from among us, without leaving any token in his will of his appreciation of the important public interests of the city where he lived, and where, in all probability, he amassed his wealth. There ought to be a

public sentiment that would incline every such gentleman, as he deliberately pens the last document which is to link him to his fellow-men, to leave something behind him to benefit mankind when he has passed away—something by which he may be always pleasantly remembered by his fellow-citizens.

There is another consideration which ought to have its benefits. The objects of religion and humanity which rightly claim our benefactions are appreciated by a very large circle. But such objects as those which Mr. Gilpin has remembered—the reviving the history of the past with its other recollections and its inspiring lessons, and the infusing into the State of finer elements and the gleaming of a richer and brighter hue over society—appeal to comparatively few who have the means of assisting them. The laying, therefore, of such foundations is a work eminently worthy of a gentleman of culture, and the Press, as the

exponent of public sentiment, should place in clear and bright relief the names of men who thus honor themselves and their country.

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Historical Rooms, Boston, Feb. 10, 1860.

At a stated meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society, held in Boston on the 9th of February, 1860, it was unanimously

*Resolved*, That the members of the Massachusetts Historical Society have received with becoming sensibility the melancholy tidings of the decease of their honorary associate, Henry D. Gilpin, Esq., Vice-President of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, President of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and a Director of the Girard College at Philadelphia.

*Resolved*, That the various and distinguished accomplishments of Mr. Gilpin as a jurist, a statesman, and a scholar; his numerous and valuable contributions to the historical and miscella-

neous literature of the country; his eminent services as a friend and patron of education, of the fine arts, and the benevolent institutions of the community; and his recognized character as an enlightened and public-spirited citizen, entitle him to an honored place among the illustrious dead of the past twelvemonth, and will cause his name to be held in respectful and grateful remembrance.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of our lamented associate, with the assurance of the sincere sympathy of the Massachusetts Historical Society in their bereavement.

Attest: CHANDLER ROBBINS, Record'g Sec'y.

On Thursday evening, at a meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Mr. Everett announced to the members the death of Mr. Henry D. Gilpin, of Philadelphia, and spoke substantially as follows:—

## EULOGIUM BY MR. EDWARD EVERETT.

At the meeting of the Society on the 26th of January, I expressed the apprehension that we should soon be called to lament the loss of a distinguished honorary associate, Mr. Gilpin, of Philadelphia, of whose health I had received by telegraph a very unfavorable account in the course of that day. This melancholy anticipation was realized a day or two afterwards. Having had the privilege of proposing him, in the course of the past year, as an associate whose election would do honor to the Historical Society, and having enjoyed his friendship for many years, I feel it a duty to submit to the Society an appropriate tribute of respect to his memory.

If we can with propriety use such an expression of the resigned and tranquil close of an honored and useful life, the death of Mr. Gilpin, under the

age of sixty, was *premature;* but it found him prepared; in his own parting words, he died "at peace with God and man." Born and educated in Philadelphia, he adopted the law as his profession, and rose rapidly to eminence in its practice. While yet a young man, he was appointed District Attorney of the United States, and afterwards Solicitor of the Treasury, and Attorney-General. He sustained himself honorably, at the most important forum in the country, in these important positions, sometimes in opposition to the most distinguished counsel of the day. No interest confided to him ever suffered in his hands for want of ability or attention on his part; while to the utmost energy and firmness in the discharge of duty he added an unfailing gentleness and courtesy of manner.

While he filled the office of District Attorney, he published a volume of reports of cases adjudicated in the court of which he was an officer, and

he afterwards made a collection of the opinions of the Attorneys-General, from the foundation of the government to the year 1841. He also, about the same time, rendered a very important service to the constitutional literature of the country, by a careful and conscientious collation and edition of the Madison Papers. No publication within my knowledge, issued under the auspices of the government of the United States, has been more judiciously and skilfully prepared for the press.

Mr. Gilpin, although eminently successful in his professional and political career, appeared to be wholly destitute of political ambition, and retiring in early manhood from all public occupations, devoted himself to the gratification of more congenial tastes. He had always cultivated letters as his favorite recreation from professional toil, and henceforward gave himself almost exclusively to literary pursuits. He had been, from an early period, a successful and a popular writer in the

leading periodicals of the day, including the Quarterly Reviews. He wrote many of the articles in the original edition of the Biographies of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and the second edition of that work was published under his supervision, with large additions. He also wrote biographical notices of several distinguished contemporaries, among others, of Mr. Livingston, Mr. Forsyth, and Mr. Silas Wright. His discourses and addresses on various public occasions are among the most valuable performances of the kind, always admirably written, discriminating, full of fact, and in good taste. His address on the life and character of Franklin, delivered at Philadelphia a few years since, contains one of the most judicious and instructive discussions of the entire career of our great countryman which have ever appeared.

In the possession of ample means, Mr. Gilpin bestowed a liberal expenditure on the formation

of a library. His collection consisted of twelve or fifteen thousand well-selected volumes, in the various departments of general literature. It was a library not of bibliographical rarities, but of books for use; and he was as well acquainted with their contents as any man can be with the contents of a library of that size. He was among the most finished classical scholars in the country, and his shelves contained the best editions of the ancient authors, which he read systematically and with care. He collected maps, charts, and plans of cities, with great diligence, always, in his travels, procuring the best articles of that kind, and, where nothing already published was to be had, he occasionally caused original drawings and sketches to be made, in order to complete a series.

Mr. Gilpin's taste for the fine arts had been carefully cultivated by the study of the best works at home and abroad. His residence was tastefully adorned with valuable works of painting and sta-

tuary. He was well acquainted with the characteristic merits of the great masters, which he had diligently observed in Europe. He took much interest in the progress of art at home, and was the President of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, giving much time to the management of its affairs.

He was an active member and a vice-president of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and had explored several branches of local antiquity with great accuracy. He was especially conversant with the political history of the United States, having added to a large acquaintance with the public men of the day the diligent perusal of every standard work in that department. In all his studies, the grasp of a very retentive memory was strengthened by great method in the arrangement and disposition of his books and papers.

Mr. Gilpin had formed intimate personal relations with some of the most eminent statesmen of

the day. He was specially in the confidence of the late distinguished jurist, Mr. Livingston, who, if I mistake not, in preparing his code and the reports illustrating it, more than once resorted to Mr. Gilpin's store of professional knowledge, as well as to his amply furnished library. There are few subjects of literary, scientific, or professional inquiry on which important original views might not be gathered from his conversation or correspondence, and few persons, I presume, were more frequently consulted in this way by their friends.

A few years ago Mr. Gilpin made an extensive tour in Europe and Western Asia. No American within my acquaintance has ever gone abroad better qualified to travel to advantage, or has returned with a richer store of personal observation. Acquainted beforehand with all that books could teach of the objects deserving attention, he devoted to the discriminating inspection of what is really important that time which, under the dicta-

tion of ignorant couriers, is wasted by so many travellers in vague curiosity-hunting and tasteless sight-seeing.

Mr. Gilpin took an enlightened interest in the subject of education, and especially in the Girard College, of which he was an active and efficient director. In frequent visits to Philadelphia within the last few years, I had abundant opportunity to become acquainted with the minute and truly parental care with which he watched over that institution, not merely in matters of general administration, but with kindly sympathy with the individual inmates and their progress.

It would be hardly proper before a public body to speak of Mr. Gilpin in the relations of private life, further than to say that he might be cited as a model son, brother, husband, and friend; unsurpassed in the courtesies which make the charm of social intercourse, and convert even a passing visit into a substantial enjoyment.

Mr. Gilpin left a handsome fortune. The provisions of his will, executed a short time before his death, have been made public, and show that, after obeying in the amplest manner the impulses of affection and duty, he contemplated munificent and permanent endowments of the public institutions with which he was connected. The grave has rarely closed over a character of such great and varied excellence, and his death is a loss not merely to Philadelphia, but to the whole country.

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

## CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

At a stated meeting of this Society, held February 21, 1860, Mr. W. H. Brown, President, in the chair, a letter addressed to the President from Mr. Charles Macalester, of Philadelphia, one of the executors of the last will and testament of the late Henry D. Gilpin, of that city, deceased, was read, communicating the intelligence that this Society had been made one of the residuary legatees, in the provisions of said will, and transmitting a printed copy of the will, for the Society's information and use.

REMARKS OF MR. WILLIAM BARRY.

After submitting the above letter, Mr. Barry, the Secretary, remarked that, in communicating to the Society the important announcement just made, he deemed it to belong to others, who had the privilege and honor of a personal acquaintance with the late Mr. Gilpin, to speak in fitting terms of the distinguished benefaction which is to connect his name henceforth so pre-eminently with this institution, and of those estimable qualities of mind and heart which, by those who knew him best, were most profoundly loved and honored. His general life and career have, from the varied and eminent positions he has occupied, been long known. Born in 1801, educated at the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated with honor in 1819, his successful career at the bar early introduced him into public life, in his appointment,

in 1832, to the office of United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, followed by that of Solicitor of the United States Treasury, in 1837, and by the distinguished appointment of Attorney-General of the United States, in 1840.

To have filled such posts with the honoring approval of his countrymen would alone entitle his name to respect. But that he loved place less for the distinction it confers than as a more commanding sphere for the exercise of his talents, and the indulgence of his refined taste and superior culture, is evident, not only from his highly valued publication of the opinions given by those holding the office of Attorney-General of the United States from the organization of the Federal Government, prepared by him amidst the pressure of official duty, but also from the facility and preference with which, while yet in the morning of his fame and success, he retired to the calm privacy of domestic life, and to the congenial associations of

that accomplished circle of literary friends, by whose appreciative esteem he was honored and cherished to the last.

Of his merits and accomplishments as a thorough scholar and man of taste, the late Mr. Gilpin has left numerous testimonials, in his honorable appointment to edit the papers of Madison, in the biographical tributes he has rendered to many of the fathers and statesmen of our country, and in his extensive and valued contributions to the periodical literature of the United States. Of his services to literature and art no higher encomium can be offered than his cordial appointment, in a city justly distinguished for its love of letters and encouragement of the elegant arts, to the highest offices in its two leading institutions, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts; of the former of which he was, at his decease, Vice-President, and of the latter President.

It was in harmony with a life so generously consecrated to some of the highest of human interests that it should find its consummation in the memorable acts of liberality which are to associate Mr. Gilpin's name hereafter with those institutions of this and of his native city, devoted to the objects which were among the first in his own esteem and pursuit. No one can inspect the careful manner in which the provisions of his will were framed without a profound respect for his judgment, wisdom, and intelligent forethought, as well as admiration for the delicacy, generosity, and warmth of his sentiments. Others can better say how truly the general character of his life was exemplified in this its closing and crowning act.

Mr. William B. Ogden then addressed the Society in an impressive manner, substantially as follows:—

REMARKS OF MR. WILLIAM B. OGDEN.

Having had the honor of a personal acquaintance, for many years, with the late Mr. Gilpin, and having sustained relations with him of a very friendly character, which had brought them into frequent communication, and under circumstances calculated to convey a just impression of his personal character, as well as of the beauty of his private life, it gave him the most cordial satisfaction to express his sense of his eminent worth as a man, of his fine culture and scholarly tastes, and of those superior qualities which fitted him to adorn the select society which he gathered about him, rendering his home the seat of a refined and elegant hospitality, which attracted towards him the warmest esteem of all who had the privilege of sharing his friendship.

Honored in early life as few have been, by calls

to distinguished positions of trust and influence, he long since retired from public life, in the possession of an ample estate, surrendering himself to the attractions of his home and library, but yet exercising a beneficent influence, as well as indulging his liberal tastes, in connection with those institutions of his native city which he has so generously remembered in his will, and which had honored him with their highest offices.

While on a visit to Europe some years since, he availed himself of the favorable opportunity thus afforded him, to visit the chief repositories of learning and art in the old world. Few were better fitted by nature and cultivation to profit by such advantages. This had been his long-cherished desire; and its execution enabled him to return to his native land with collections in literature and art of a rare and interesting character, which it was his pride and joy to arrange about

him for his personal gratification, as well as that of his numerous friends.

Of his spacious mansion, on one of the principal streets of Philadelphia, an entire story, of large depth, was devoted to the treasures selected and accumulated abroad by his excellent judgment and refined taste. Here were to be seen an ample library, composed of the choicest works of learning and science, and a collection of works of art, reproducing in well-executed copies some of the finest productions of European genius. Among these it was his delight to pass his days, in the society of men of congenial tastes, devoting his time with a generous zeal to the higher interests of his native city, where his talents, character, and influence were held in the highest esteem. Here, in the privacy of his home, was his character displayed with peculiar beauty; and those who had the privilege of admission to it could not but be struck with the ease, courtesy, and grace which

distinguished his manners, and the marked happiness of his domestic relations.

The late Mr. Gilpin was early associated with our own city. Being a proprietor here of extensive estates, he had from time to time visited it, and was an eye-witness of its remarkable prosperity and growth. His intelligent and generous forecast looked into its future, and prompted, doubtless, the munificence which has been so signally expressed in his liberal provision for the interests of this Society, whose rooms he had personally visited, and for whose success he indulged the kindliest interest. He has thus durably connected his name with our city, not as a proprietor only, but as one of its chief benefactors; for that the generous designs contemplated by the late Mr. Gilpin will be fully carried out, not a doubt can be entertained.

On an occasion of such importance and interest, it were unfitting to offer such testimonials only of

our gratitude and respect as the feelings of the moment may prompt. A due respect for so distinguished a munificence, to so honored a benefactor, renders it proper to propose and to adopt with deliberation, an appropriate expression of the sentiments inspired by this event.

Mr. Ogden then moved that a committee be appointed to take into consideration the bequest made by the late Mr. Gilpin to this Society, and report such resolutions as they deem proper.

After additional remarks by Mess. Arnold, E. B. M'Cagg, E. H. Sheldon, and others, the motion was unanimously adopted; and Mr. W. B. Ogden, M. Skinner, and I. N. Arnold were appointed to constitute the committee.

The following resolutions, subsequently reported by Judge Skinner, in behalf of the committee, were unanimously passed:—

WHEREAS this Society has been informed, through the attention of the executors of the last will and testament of the late Henry D. Gilpin, of Philadelphia, recently deceased, that it has been named as one of the residuary legatees in said will, with provisions for the execution of the generous and enlightened designs thereby intended, which reflect the highest honor upon the intelligence, wisdom, and public spirit of the honored testator:

*Resolved*, That this Society entertain the most grateful sense of the distinguished benefit and aid thus contemplated and provided for in its behalf, and for the permanent interests of learning and art in this young city, by the munificent bequest of the late Mr. Gilpin—an act held in yet higher estimation and gratitude from the interesting associations of their benefactor with this city, the intended recipient of his bounty, his estimable qualities as a man, his merits and services as a

scholar, and his life of public usefulness and private virtue, which have secured for him not only the warm, enduring, and honorable esteem of his immediate associates and personal friends, but entitled him to a place among those who have done honor to our common country.

*Resolved*, That in proof of their high estimation of the bequest thus provided for, this Society will gratefully and faithfully endeavor to carry out the enlightened and liberal intentions of their benefactor for the good of this community, and that, in perpetual commemoration of his character and benefaction, arrangements be made to procure the execution of his bust in marble, to be placed and preserved forever in the library of the Society.

*Resolved*, That the members of this Society tender to the family and immediate friends of the late Mr. Gilpin their most respectful sympathy and condolence, in the removal of one, the honorable esteem of whose name was so intimately con-

nected with those qualities of personal and private worth which will forever consecrate his memory in the hearts of his friends.

WILLIAM BARRY, Sec'ry, &c.

HISTORICAL ROOMS, CHICAGO, Sept. 18, 1860.

To MRS. HENRY D. GILPIN.

MADAM: By this Society's direction I have the honor to transmit to you the accompanying copy of Resolutions, unanimously adopted at their meeting held this day, in commemoration and acknowledgment of the distinguished munificence displayed towards this institution by the late Mr. Gilpin, as well as in testimony of their profound and grateful esteem for his memory, and their most respectful sentiments of condolence with his devoted friends.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect.

Madam, your most ob't humble serv't,

WILLIAM BARRY, Record'g Sec'y.

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

# AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

Stated Meeting, September 21, 1860.

Vice-President, Mr. George Sharswood, in the chair.

An obituary notice of the late member, Henry D. Gilpin, was read by Mr. Joseph R. Ingersoll.

## ADDRESS OF MR. JOSEPH R. INGERSOLL.

It is not always easy to account for the success that appears habitually to accompany the career of particular individuals. Where great merit exists, the circumstance seems naturally to explain itself. But good fortune is not necessarily or at all times the companion of great qualities. It is in some respects capricious, and many persons in

ordinary life have thought that they had reason to put faith, as Bonaparte did in war, in the influence of a friendly star. One of the richest private men of the age is said to have disclaimed all right on the score of abilities and skill, or even of careful management of his affairs, and to have imputed his wonderful prosperity to what he modestly called Luck. A very moderate degree of merit, and a seeming indifference to opportunities for gathering riches within easy reach, do not prevent the accidents of many a life from being marked with a frequent attainment of wealth. It may happen, too, though perhaps more rarely, that much positive desert, combined with laborious and comparatively well directed exertions, will fail in receiving a just reward in what are regarded the gifts of fortune. Each of these conditions must be looked upon as an exception to a sound general rule. As such they are far from disproving its reality or soundness. They serve, indeed, while

the departures from it are only occasional, to confirm the existence and establish the truth of a principle, worthy to be cherished in all the relations of life. Otherwise they would be strange contradictions in practice of some of the best lessons of philosophy. They are at variance with established maxims of wisdom, with daily lessons of experience, with doctrines of universal morality, and with the earnest and virtuous promptings of conscious and enlightened duty. Could they be considered in any other light, they would go far to impeach the instructions which should never be lost sight of, that foresight and discretion are commonly the companions of virtue, and that folly is often the forerunner of crime. Cause and effect, are inherent in our nature. Their immediate connection is not always to be seen. It is nevertheless true that almost every event in the history of individuals or nations, although not easily to be traced to its sometimes hidden origin,

is the result of a possibly remote but efficient cause. Merit and demerit, and the fruits of them in conduct must have their consequences. The safest lesson that philosophy can teach, is that the fortunate are the wise. Contingencies exist in all human affairs against which the utmost prudence cannot always guard. Open hostility sometimes, and that of a secret and insidious kind still more frequently, is entertained against the deserving. The maxim is well founded, that every beginning is arduous. Difficulties unseen and unknown as well as such as are perceived, beset its path, and do not always vanish when the novelty of the undertaking is worn away. The wisest cannot at all times foresee everything that is before them; and the bravest may be unable to overcome combinations whether anticipated by the efforts of reason or overlooked by them. With all these possible dangers and obstacles, there can be no doubt that a union of good qualities of head and mind and

heart, carried firmly into practical use, will not only always deserve, but will in general command success. Clear intelligence, sound morality, and benevolent feeling, animating the conduct, and manifested with unaffected simplicity in outward deportment, will in most instances dispel difficulties, however obstinate, and triumph over the most formidable dangers. It is happy, not only for the individual possessor of them, but for the best interests of social life with which he is surrounded, that these ingredients of character, each of them of value in itself, but inestimable when combined in spirit and practised together, are reflected by general esteem, respect, and gratitude.

To the honor of human nature it is sometimes seen that success has been almost uniformly the companion of merit during the career of a long and active life. This companionship of desert and reward, may not always have attracted the observation of the unthinking world, but the truth

has nevertheless existed, although by the mass of men unperceived, and the discerning few have known that it at least was hidden in the centre. The one has been the natural if not the necessary consequence of the other, and not a mere accidental coincident. Even commonplace attention to duties is productive of obvious results. Why should not loftier habits be equally fruitful in the accomplishment of great ends? Industry is necessary for the attainment of knowledge and skill. Warm friendships must be for the most part a return for acts and feelings of kindness and regard. Sympathy is the most grateful emotion of the heart. Tokens of respect from the world are the result not merely of heroism and other brilliant qualities, but more commonly of good conduct in the every-day intercourse of life, and especially of liberality and kindness in word and action. Happily, illustrations are not wanting in familiar intercourse. The absence of them would be a sorry

proof of the degeneracy of the age. If they are rare, the fact cannot justly be pleaded in extenuation of wilful error, or of an under-estimate of the value of wisdom and virtue, or of determined and persevering efforts to do what is right. Other and more exalted motives for good conduct, besides and above the policy of it, are experienced in a self-approving conscience and the tranquil feeling of satisfaction, if not of elevated enjoyment. Should it happen now and then that disappointment of positive reward follows proper actions, the monitor within is a lasting and more than sufficient equivalent.

In proceeding to discharge, however imperfectly, the duty I am called upon to perform, the course of reflection which has been submitted seemed not inappropriate as preliminary, and could scarcely escape the mind of one who was long in friendly relations with the subject of this obituary notice. He was a striking proof of merit

and success in apt and ordinary coincidence. A record of his course of life becomes appropriate to this Society. It is history teaching by example, which is a rich department of the science of philosophy. A familiar acquaintance with his character, and his pursuits which were always in consistency with it, will not be an unprofitable lesson. His conduct was such, that although not many of his contemporaries may be found to resemble him, yet an imitation of it, while worthy of the efforts of the most ambitious, need not be avoided by any extreme of modesty. Without resorting to any violent efforts, either in transactions of business and the performance of duty, or in the exhibitions of voluntary usefulness, he appeared to reach the desired ends by steady and well directed pursuit. Perhaps the very absence of excessive effort was, unconsciously to himself, one of the efficient causes of their being attained. A mind and body gently stimulated to moderate

but adequate activity, by due self reliance, and happy in the continual exercise of it under the guidance of integrity and good feeling, but avoiding errors that are too commonly consequences of undue zeal and precipitancy, are the most likely to succeed. The possessor of them, to quote from high authority, is "like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Discretion is the essence of wisdom. It is the master key that ought to unlock fortune's casket. This golden rule is as ancient as it is general and true. In application and exercise, it is nearly as multiplied as the families of the human race. All history confirms, and experience exhibits the concurring sense of the wise and virtuous, that to be discreet is to deserve if not to command good fortune.

It is a remarkable circumstance that in what was probably the last act of business in the life of

one who was so circumspect upon nearly every other occasion, the characteristic precaution of our departed fellow member seems to have been forgotten by him. The will of Mr. Gilpin is believed to have been prepared by him some weeks and perhaps even months before it was executed. It was then written by himself, without conference or consultation with any one. It was not at any time exhibited or made known even to his wife, between whom and himself unlimited confidence prevailed. One offer or more was made by him to that effect, which was declined by her from motives of delicacy or a feeling of tenderness and sensibility; and the contents were not actually known by her either before or after its execution, either in the original draught or final copy by the scrivener. He could scarcely have been aware of the extremity of his illness, and how nearly he had approached its fatal end, or the formal completion of the needful work would not have been

delayed so long. He may, in a condition of much and increasing feebleness, have lost sight, at the moment, of the recent law of Pennsylvania forbidding, at the approach of death, bequests to bodies politic or persons in trust for religious or charitable uses. Or he may have hazarded a construction of the terms of the statute which will give rise to difficulty. It would have been clearer and better for his cherished views, if the will had been made perfect in all respects, immediately after the original was written by his own hand. This original was destroyed, and a copy, literal in all particulars, was adopted. This was executed on the 17th of January, 1860, in the presence of three witnesses, in due and sufficient form. The life of the testator was then drawing towards its close, with all the perceptions of a bright intellect altogether unimpaired. He lived but twelve days afterwards. On the 29th of January, 1860, he breathed his last. Probate in the proper office was made on

the 3d of February. Each event occurred within less than thirty days of the date and execution of the will.

It has been feared by some that the course of these transactions may prove to have been unfortunate for the ultimate objects of bounty and public spirit named in the testament. A calendar month certainly did not elapse between the date of the instrument and the melancholy event which prevented the possibility of explanation or correction by the hand that made it, if such should be found to have been important. If these fears have any foundation, a counterpart may be made to appear of the maxim which claims good fortune for the legitimate offspring of discretion, by exhibiting evil fortune as resulting from its absence at a critical moment. At the same time a signal proof may be afforded how the uniform facility with which discretion and success have gone along hand in hand together, with scarcely a failure,

during a somewhat protracted life, may together cease as it approaches its close.

The will is peculiar, and strongly indicative of the character of the framer. With some small exceptions, the great bulk of a large estate is given, in terms of warm affection and gratitude, to the writer's amiable wife, for her life. This is, happily, subject to no sort of contingency. It will take effect and be enjoyed by her in immediate and undisputed possession. This large endowment is accompanied by requesting her, however, to pay therefrom, to his mother, whom he mentions in terms of the strongest endearment, annually, during her life, the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars. He gives to his wife, absolutely, all his furniture of every description, plate and wines, except his books, manuscript and printed, and his pictures, statues, and works of art, and of these she is to have the uncontrolled use and possession during her life. Should his mother outlive

his wife, he gives her, during her life, the income of his estate. Subject to the gift, devise, and bequest to his wife and mother, which he desires to be carried into full effect, he gives to the executors and trustees named in the will all his estate, real and personal, in trust, for the following purposes. After the death of his wife and mother, whichever shall last occur, and after the entire payment of certain bequests, then to appropriate, etc., the rest and residue of the estate, as it may then be, in three equal parts. First, one-third part to certain trustees named, in trust, to invest and reinvest the same at interest in public stocks of the city of Philadelphia; and after a period of ten years, and as much longer as they may deem expedient, then to appropriate the income accumulated up to that time, to the erection of a fireproof library building, to be a part of a fireproof edifice of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, when one shall be erected, to be in itself fireproof, entirely dis-

tinct from any other portion of the said edifice, though connected with and forming a part of it, and to be designated the "Gilpin Library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania." After the Society's edifice and this library building shall be finished, then to appropriate to the use of the Gilpin Library, annually, the entire income of the said one-third part of the rest and residue, and to continue to invest and reinvest the principal in the public stocks aforesaid. He also directs the executors and trustees of his will to deliver to the last named trustees, when they shall deem it expedient, his entire library of books and manuscripts which he may possess at his death, to be placed in that Library. The second of the one-third parts of the rest and residue he bequeaths in a manner similar to the first, for the erection of a fireproof gallery of the Fine Arts, to be a part of a fireproof edifice of the Academy, when one shall be erected, but to be entirely distinct, though connected with

and forming a part of it; to be designated "The Gilpin Gallery of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts." After the building and edifice shall be entirely completed, the entire income of this one-third to be annually appropriated to the use of the Gilpin Gallery, and the principal to continue to be invested and reinvested. He also requests the executors and trustees of his will to deliver to the trustees of the Gilpin Gallery all his pictures, statuary, and works of the fine arts which he may possess at his death, including, if she will permit it, his wife's own portrait and statue, to be placed in and never to be taken from the gallery. The remaining third part of the rest and residue he bequeaths in a similar manner to the others, for the erection of a fireproof library building, to be a part of a fireproof edifice of the Historical Society of Chicago, to be designated "The Gilpin Library of the Historical Society of Chicago." After the edifice and building shall

be completed, the entire income of this one-third to be appropriated to the use of this Gilpin Library, and the principal to continue to be invested and reinvested.

These principal items of the will have thus been set forth as characteristic marks of the tastes and tendencies of the testator. His preference for books and works of art was habitual, and it was clearly manifested in his own collections, consisting of a large private library, and of marble statuary which he had imported from Italy, and other productions of the same character. The above description of the legacies will serve also to furnish means of judging how far the danger may or may not be imminent of failure and disappointment in the expected fruits of benevolence and public spirit, from a correct interpretation of the act of Assembly of Pennsylvania, which has been alluded to. In the event of such failure, these bounties would become subject to distribu-

tion according to law, without any guide from the will of the testator, as it contains no ultimate residuary clause, or other provision against contingencies. Could this possibility of defeat to his sanguine and cherished hopes have been imagined, it might readily have been guarded against by a few words of conditional direction, which would have given certainty to favorite purposes, in defiance of jealous legislation, and strained judicial construction.

An act of Assembly of 26th April, 1855, contains a section (11) in these words: "No estate, real or personal, shall hereafter be bequeathed, devised, or conveyed to any body politic, or to any person, in trust for religious or charitable uses, except the same be done by deed or will, attested by two credible, and at the same time, disinterested witnesses, at least one calendar month before the decease of the testator or alienor; and all dispositions of property contrary hereto shall be void, and go

to the residuary legatee or devisee, next of kin, or heirs according to law: Provided, that any disposition of property within said period *bona fide* made for a fair, valuable consideration, shall not be hereby avoided."

This statute has been the subject of judicial determination before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. A will was made in 1856, and the testator died within less than a calendar month from its date. The residue of the estate, after payment of debts and liabilities, was left "in trust for the uses and purposes of Friends' Boarding-School at West Town." The heirs and next of kin filed their bill, alleging that the school was a religious and charitable institution; that they were the parties who would have been entitled to the estate if there had been no will; and asking for an order upon the executors to transfer the same to them. Learned and able arguments were submitted on both sides. It was contended for the complain-

ants that the words of the statute "religious and charitable uses" are used in their broadest significance. The effect of the will would be to cheapen education to those who *could* pay, and *give* it gratuitously to those who *could not*. This, it was submitted, constitutes a *charitable* institution. It was also a religious institution. It was established to encourage "a guarded education of their youth." It was confined to them, and was to be managed with "religious care and circumspection." On the other side it was contended that the words of a statute are to be taken in their ordinary and familiar signification, for *jus et norma loquendi* is governed by usage. But if the usage have been to construe the words of a statute contrary to their obvious meaning by the vulgar tongue, and the common acceptation of terms, such usage is not to be regarded. It was plain that the legislature was using words in their popular, and not in their scholastic or technical sense; that not a single

instance was to be found where the legislature intended the words "charitable" or "religious" to embrace the idea of "literary" or "scientific" bodies.

The Court adopted the views of the complainants. "It was true," they said, "that the words of a statute are generally to be understood in their usual and most known signification, not so much regarding the propriety of grammar as their popular sense." "But when terms of art or technical terms are used (and there is nothing in the statute to show that they were used in a restricted or popular sense)," "they must be taken according to the acceptation of the learned in the art, trade, or science" to which they properly belong. The Court entertained no doubt that the words were intended to embrace objects of a religious, literary, and scientific character, as well as those which related to the poor and afflicted. It was therefore decided that the dispositions in the will were

void; and that the executors make distribution among the heirs and next of kin.

It would scarcely be in place here to question this learned decision; or, perhaps, even to examine into its bearing upon the will of Mr. Gilpin. The friends of the deceased, however, and the public at large, have made his bequests the topic of remark and discussion from the time they were known. Valuable institutions of literature, science, and art, are deeply interested in the construction of them. They are to take effect in any event, only at what may be hoped is a remote day, after the death of the wife and mother of the deceased, whichever shall last occur. The significance of these bequests in amount, the high character of the institutions for which they are designed, the characteristic public spirit and liberality breathed in them, even the mystery which belongs to their future and distant development, and the curiosity and concern naturally felt in the

disposition of a large estate, different as it is from the more common course of testamentary disposal, have combined to prompt and justify a somewhat minute explanation. It is given in order that the friends of the deceased and the public at large may be prepared to meet the question, if it shall ever be formally agitated. It may not be wrong to add, that, although no technical judgment has been pronounced, yet sound legal minds are believed to have formed opinions favorable to the complete and literal fulfilment of the expressed purposes of the will.

In recurring to the habits of Mr. Gilpin's life, and noticing, summarily, its incidents, a combination will be found of devoted attention to official duty in successive places of public employment, and of readiness to turn to voluntary exercises, sometimes having public ends in view, and sometimes of a more social character. He was industrious in both. In the latter kind of exercises he

either obeyed the call of associations, political or literary, with which he was more or less closely connected, or entered from his own praiseworthy impulses, upon an arena where good taste and scholarship were displayed in speech and writing, congenial to his own feelings and the pleased instruction of his friends. These employments were varied by a relaxation of literary leisure in the companionship of books, which supplied his stores of knowledge, and a moderate and cheerful indulgence in the enjoyments of domestic and social intercourse, in which he took a lively interest, and was always well received. He was not only never idle, but never without what may be regarded as sufficient occupation of mind. He conversed freely and sensibly, always with entire delicacy of thought and speech, and with entire freedom from everything like personal detraction. Had his bodily exercises been as carefully attended to, his life would probably have been prolonged. It was

perceived too late that he had not submitted to enough of this important discipline to give vigor to his frame, or to resist the encroachments of disease. Sedentary habits were agreeable to him. He preferred the repose of study to the activity of exercise. He did not even afford himself habitually the ordinary relief of an occasional walk, which in itself would have been an irksome effort to him. Always desirous of occupation, and seeking to be in the way of it, he turned to his library even at unseasonable moments. This would occur at a late period of the evening, which had been passed for hours in the society of his friends. These habits will serve to explain the constancy of the engagements of his pen. He appears never to have tired of his desk. When not using it at the invitation of others, he gave it employment as a kind of duty or agreeable exercise for himself. This was, perhaps, the rather indulged from

the fact, that among his accomplishments was that of writing an excellent hand.

With such tastes as these, which appear to have been inherent in his nature, and were fully developed in the progress of years, it was a happy circumstance that he had passed that portion of boyhood which receives the elements of education, in a country where classical learning is especially cultivated. He had been at an early period carefully imbued with it. A school at Hemel-Hempstead, twenty-three miles from London, was kept by Dr. Hamilton, a highly respectable and well-known teacher, who received and educated a very limited number of young gentlemen at a time. Young Gilpin was at this school for four years, and the well-grounded tastes and acquirements there instilled never abandoned him. His immediate paternal ancestors were Americans, coming from a British stock. His father (Mr. Joshua Gilpin) was a highly respectable merchant of Phila-

delphia, and afterwards removed to the State of Delaware. He there continued to reside during the remainder of his life, connected with his brother in a large manufacturing establishment on the Brandywine. He participated, as long as his health continued, in the relations of social life, and in institutions of literature, science, and taste, in Philadelphia. He died, after some years of delicate and infirm health, at the age of seventy-four, at Kentmere, in Delaware, that being the name given by him to the house which he built and occupied as his family residence. This name was derived from the legends and annals of the Gilpin family, in the north of England. It is stated, that about the year 1206, the Baron of Kendal gave to Richard de Guylpin, the ancestor, the manor of Kentmere, for his prowess and skill in killing a wild boar which had annoyed the forests of Westmoreland and Cumberland.

Henry D. Gilpin was born in Lancaster, Eng-

land, the birthplace of his amiable mother, who survives him at an advanced age. His birth took place April 14th, 1801; and his death January 29th, 1860. He was thus in his fifty-ninth year, or fifty-eight years, nine months and fifteen days old. In very early infancy he was brought (September, 1801), to this country with the family, which remained here until the year 1811. They, then, all returned to England. He was placed at the school which has been mentioned, and derived from it good instruction, constitutional and habitual industry, and apt faculties, fondness for the languages of Greece and Rome, and advancement in an acquaintanceship with them; both of which were cultivated and improved during his life. In 1816, they returned for a permanent residence to the United States. The subject of our memoir received his college instructions at the University of Pennsylvania. After taking his degree there, he entered upon the study of the law, and was

admitted to practice in 1822; having, while a student and under age, filled with credit the place of Secretary of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company, of which he afterwards became one of the Directors.

He was now a member of a learned profession, and prepared to engage in its duties and responsibilities. He did not, however, at any time plunge into the vortex of early professional life, to the extent and with the chances that are common. He appeared willing to abide his time; secure in the possession of sufficient abilities, great good feelings, amiable manners, and strict integrity. He made his way in due season, without having encountered what Mr. Gibbon considered it necessary to traverse under the spur of necessity, "the thorny labyrinths of the law." He was happy at all times in the friendship of those who could promote his interests, while they extended to him personal kindness; and he cultivated the regard of

such individuals with benefit to his private relations, and success in his public career. If he was favored with the smiles of fortune principally while engaged in official life, he was always faithful and intelligent, as well as upright and laborious as a civil officer of the government. He held, in succession, several important places—District Attorney of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (December 30th, 1831), a second time (December 31st, 1835), Government Director of the Bank of the United States (January, 1833), Solicitor of the Treasury (May, 1837), Attorney-General (January, 1840). He was nominated for the post of Governor of Michigan, and rejected by the Senate (January 20th, 1835) by a bare majority. His nomination for the second term of Bank Director was rejected. That, also, of District Attorney, for a second time, was at first rejected, although on the renewal of it, confirmed. His political friends, and those, too, of a personal

character, deemed these rejections to be owing to the state of party feeling, rather than to any doubt of fitness upon the part of the nominee. During a portion of the time of his official residence at Washington, the Commissioners under the Mexican Treaty met, and Mr. Gilpin represented, as an advocate, many of the largest claims that were adjudicated by the Board. On these, respectively, he received a commission, which amounted in the whole to so considerable a sum as to become a broad foundation for the resources which he enjoyed and judiciously invested during life, and bequeathed in ample benevolence at his death.

If public offices were filled by him with much direct and incidental pecuniary advantage, places of a social and municipal kind were occupied with like fidelity and no emolument. He was, for a considerable length of time, a Director, and afterwards President of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts; and was a Director and Vice-Presi-

dent of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. He was elected a Trustee of the University of Pennsylvania December 7th, 1852, and presented his resignation April 6th, 1858, on account of the state of his health and engagements. He was elected by the Common Council a Director of the Girard College June 25th, 1856, to serve from the ensuing July 1st. In organizing the Board, he drew the two years term, and served "faithfully and acceptably" until the 1st of July, 1858, when his term of office expired.

Discourses were delivered by him on various occasions. He was attached to the Democratic party, and not unfrequently pronounced an address to bodies of the associate politicians, and occasionally to literary and other societies. Of these, the following have been preserved:—

1826, November 29th: Annual Discourse before the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

1836, January 8th: Speech at the Union and Harmony celebration by Democratic citizens of Philadelphia.

1836, July 4th: Speech at the Democratic celebration of the Second Congressional District.

1845, May 23d: Address before the Philomathean Society of the University of Pennsylvania.

1847, November 22d: Eulogy on Silas Wright, before the Young Men's Democratic Association.

1851, June 2d: Address before the Academy of Fine Arts.

1851, November 13th: Address before the Society of the Alumni, on the occasion of their annual celebration, at the University.

1856, October 13th: On the American Missions in Greece, at St. Luke's Church.

1856, December 4th: Address on the Character of Franklin, before the Franklin Institute.

The controversy between the Executive of the Government and the Bank of the United States took place when Mr. Gilpin was a public Director of that institution. It was carried on with zeal and acrimony. He was the author of various

documents issued by the Government Directors, and particularly of a memorial addressed to Congress, in alleged vindication of his immediate colleagues and himself, from an attack in the memorial of a majority of the Board, which claimed a restoration of the deposites, withheld by orders of the Government. This memorable dispute was kept in active agitation for a considerable length of time. It left behind much bitterness of feeling, which has probably not been altogether assuaged to the present day.

At an early period of professional life he contributed frequently to the press. In the year 1825 he undertook the editorship of the "Atlantic Souvenir," and wrote largely for its pages. In 1826 he completed the "Biography of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence," by the publication of the last three volumes. A new edition was soon prepared by him, with an original preface and many additions. He was a frequent

contributor to the "American Quarterly Review," which was established in Philadelphia in the year 1829. A series of "Political Portraits" will be found on the pages of the "Democratic Review," several of which are from his pen. Those of Edward Livingston and Josiah Johnston are among them. A biographical notice, by him, of Mr. Livingston, is also among the many well written documents on the files of this Society. He was authorized to superintend the publication, under the auspices of Congress, of the "Madison Papers," and it was done with great skill and fidelity, in three volumes, 8vo., 1840.

Shortly afterwards, the Opinions of the Attorneys-General of the United States, previous to March, 1841, were published under his inspection.

He was the Reporter of a volume of Cases decided by Judge Hopkinson, in the United States District Court for the District of Pennsylvania, published in 1837.

He had compiled, in 1825, "A Northern Tour," being a guide to Saratoga, Lake George, Niagara, Canada, Boston, etc. etc.

He edited the "Atlantic Souvenir," 7 vols. 12mo., 1826–1832.

An Autobiography of Walter Scott was compiled from passages in his writings, published 1831, 1 vol. 12mo.

A very early publication consisted of "Essays on Import Duties and Prohibitions; translated from the French of Comte Chaptal, by Henry D. Gilpin," 1821.

He was the author of a Preface to the Biography of Napoleon Bonaparte, by Sir Walter Scott.

The first political piece written by him is believed to have been A Memorial of Sundry Citizens of Pennsylvania, relative to the Treatment and Removal of the Indians.

He prepared an Address of the Democratic Committee of Correspondence of Philadelphia in

August, 1832; and in October of that year united with Judge Baldwin in an Address of the Democratic Committee of Correspondence of the City of Philadelphia, relative to the Missionaries and the State of Georgia.

He was jointly the author of a Report of the Debts and Effects of the Bank of the United States, and the Value of its Capital Stock on the 3d of March, 1856.

The Van Buren Executive Committee issued a Life of Martin Van Buren in Philadelphia, January 5th, 1844, written by Mr. Gilpin.

He was the author of many reviews of works of great variety—of History, Travels, Biography, Poetry, Discoveries, Annals, Law, etc.

He was occasionally devoted to the poetic muse. Productions of his in verse are found in the "Atlantic Souvenir."

His pen was prolific, and indulged itself in great variety. It drew freely from the resources

of his own cultivated mind, and found ready illustration and support in the pages of a large library, by which his desk was surrounded. This love of literature and science was indulged of late years in occasional visits to the Astor Library, in New York, which is rapidly developing itself into one of the most valuable and interesting collections of the age. The learned superintendent of that institution always received him with the congenial feelings of an instructed and inquiring intellect; and the kindest relations subsisted between them to the close of Mr. Gilpin's life.

It was not until one of the later years of his career that he visited the home of his ancestors, and there met and made many friends. He travelled with his excellent wife on the continent of Europe, and penetrated into remoter regions of other sections of the world. He refreshed his knowledge of antiquity, which had been derived from books, by navigating the ancient Nile, and

beholding the monuments of Egypt, which have stood amid the changes of mankind for thousands of years. While in Europe, not only did the scenes of modern elegance attract his notice in the capitals of Britain, and France, and Prussia, and Germany, but Rome became the object of especial and devoted study, not less than liberal enjoyment. Her classic exhibitions and memorials of the past, as well as her splendid displays of modern and ancient art combined in gorgeous pageantry, and all the solemn and magnificent exercises of an attractive and brilliant form of worship, were before him. Greece, too, the land of Xenophon and Homer, as well as of Plato and Socrates, of Solon and Lycurgus, of Themistocles and Leonidas, of Demosthenes and Pericles, of scholars and philosophers, and statesmen and legislators, of heroes and orators, was not trodden without a full measure of delight.

He returned home and renewed his social and

literary occupations. These were pursued for some few years with satisfaction and enjoyment. It was not long, however, before his health began to fail. A frame not constitutionally robust, and still unhappily sedentary during a great portion of the year, although relieved by occasional excursions, could scarcely fail to exhibit symptoms of diminished health. Some of his favorite habits of a public nature were restrained, as he thought, from mere inclination; but an insidious malady was gradually doing its fatal work almost without being self perceived. Strength failed him by degrees, and he was compelled to deny himself the little bodily exercise, to the utility and past neglect of which he had at length become sensible. On the 29th of January his career was closed by the hand of death. His merits will be long preserved in the recollection of his country and his many friends.

Most men who have lived lives of usefulness

and left distinguished names, have made themselves remarkable for qualities more or less peculiarly adapted to a particular pursuit. They have either manifested early tendencies for vocation and success in their proper spheres, or have anxiously cultivated faculties adapted to them. While duties uncongenial to their habits, inclinations, or abilities may neither have been sought by themselves nor selected for them by others, they have entered upon employments accidentally provided for them, with inadequate facility and force, although their general capacities may have been fully equal to them. Faculties will commonly take their own direction, and in that direction they are most like to excel. It might be supposed that talents which would make a brilliant advocate, would shine in the office of a statesman, or in that which is prepared by the same course of study, of a judge. Such is not at all times the case. Disappointment is often felt by warm friends and

long standing admirers, not only at the beginning of the new career, which is always hard, according to the familiar adage, but in the progress, which does not become easy, or the result successful. A lesson of practical wisdom might be learned from daily observation, that should serve to caution against yielding to ambition or the desire of gain, by exchanging a position which time has rendered familiar, and proved to be well adapted to the holder of it, for one of uncertain and precarious enjoyment, and doubtful accomplishment. It was the happy disposition of our late fellow member, whose name you desire to record with honor, to be suited not to one pursuit alone, but to many. We have seen that in his literary occupations, by which he began to distinguish himself in early youth, and continued to do so throughout his life, he was happy as an eloquent and attractive writer, rendered especially so by his classic style. His professional habits were marked with an industry

that knew and feared no exhaustion, and without which substantial reputation has rarely been attained. Politically, he was invited to discharge some of the most responsible trusts under the general government, and without the preliminary habits of legislative experience, he brought to them ample supplies of intellectual intelligence and practical fidelity. In social life he always bore an active and liberal part, mingling with the amenities of personal deportment, a well conducted and generous hospitality. Throughout all these departments his classic stores gave him a never-failing standing and a general welcome in the most cultivated intercourse. Through the whole were diffused the grace and gentleness of a temper the most amiable, which was conspicuous in conduct and manners, in business and in friendly association. While a well-known integrity and kindness of purpose obtained for him respect and confidence along with affection and esteem among

all who knew him, no one could be more gentle in carriage and kind in feeling in the closest relations of domestic life.

# LETTERS

FROM

MR. GEORGE GROTE AND MR. RICHARD COBDEN.

FROM MR. GEORGE GROTE.

London, Savile Row, June 5, 1860.

Sir: I regret much that I have been prevented by unavoidable obstacles from returning an earlier reply to your communication respecting our late lamented friend Mr. Henry D. Gilpin.

It was with deep sorrow that I received the news of his (to me at least) unexpected decease, at an age when an intellectual man may still fairly look forward to a prolonged career of usefulness. I had contracted the most sincere esteem for his character, and very high admiration both for his varied acquirements and for his powerful reach of thought. He was kind enough to send me his historical and biographical publications, which I read with much interest; and it was gratifying to me to perceive, by this as well as by other

evidences, the ardor and intelligence with which historical studies are now prosecuted in the United States.

The combination in Mr. Gilpin's character, of the active statesman with the man of letters, was to me highly interesting. And what gave to his conversation a peculiar charm in my eyes, was the earnest sympathy which he manifested in reference to the ancient Greeks and their history. On this subject I found him highly instructed, and full of that classical enthusiasm which a study of the original Greek authors seldom fails to produce, in those who have had the good inspiration to persevere in it from boyhood to manhood without interruption.

I am proud to have known so admirable a specimen of a high principled republican citizen and magistrate, who has shown full competence to serve his country in the most trying political offices, but who, at the same time, always kept his

mind open to the noblest aspirations of cultivated humanity.

I have a melancholy satisfaction in transmitting to you this sincere record of the affectionate respect which I felt towards our late friend. Mrs. Grote has written to Mrs. Gilpin, expressing, both in her own name and mine, our profound condolence for the sad and irreparable loss which she has sustained.

I have the honor to remain, sir,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE GROTE.

FROM MR. RICHARD COBDEN.

Cannes, France, 28th Feb. 1860.

My Dear Mrs. Gilpin: My wife and I have just heard, with the deepest sorrow, of the irreparable loss you have sustained. It has not been to us a wholly unexpected event, for I had heard from Sir Henry Holland a very unfavorable account when in London, in November, and which was confirmed by the reports which reached me through Mr. Corbin in Paris. You have indeed suffered a terrible bereavement in the loss of one possessing such high and such amiable qualities—and be assured that you have the strong sympathy of all who had the privilege of enjoying Mr. Gilpin's friendship, among whom I am proud to flatter myself that I was numbered. I can say without exaggeration, what I often remarked in his lifetime, that I never knew one who combined

greater attractions of heart and head than he displayed to his wide circle of friends. How much more must you be able to appreciate the extent of the loss which you and society have suffered.

. . . . . .

My wife joins me in the sincerest expressions of condolence, and we commend you to the care of Him from whom alone we can receive consolation and hope when all human sympathy is unavailing.

And believe me, most sincerely, yours,

RICHARD COBDEN.

FEB 23 1909

LRBJL78

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 011 838 625 5